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ABSTRACT

The Language Immersion Program took place during the summer of 1992 with migrant farmworker students who were attending California State University at Fresno (CSUF) and were enrolled in the University Migrant Services. During the first 3 weeks, the participants produced a video to promote higher education and addressing high school students and farmworking, Spanish-speaking parents. During the remaining 5 weeks, they provided CSUF campus tours and orientations to entering college students and students from Fresno County elementary and high schools. The booklet of participant profiles, accompanied by a videotape, presents personal narratives from 27 Fresno students and 3 language immersion program supervisors. These narratives tell how the individuals have struggled as members of migrant families and as students in the educational system. The videotape, titled "Yes, I Can," portrays Hispanic graduating high school students and Fresno State students discussing college attendance. They discuss issues related to financial aid, green cards, high school course requirements, other entrance requirements, and extracurricular activities. Fresno students introduce the University Migrant Services and suggest ways to make parents more receptive to college attendance. (KS)

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1992
PARTICIPANT PROFILES
AUGUST 14, 1992

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LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION

Please excuse the simple fashion in which I introduce such important people. I wish to make it clear that their common denominator is their humanitarian feelings and their eagerness to share the love and support they have received.

In a very special manner, each profile introduces an individual who has struggled through our educational system thanks to various educational support programs. However, their main support has come from within themselves and their families who have played a key role in developing a sense of self-esteem and academic discipline needed to succeed in life. Not one of the participants fail to recognize the importance of family support and positive reinforcement; they all had a role model who encouragaed and motivated them to prepare and pursue a higher education. In most instances that role model was a person similar to them. Now they are eager to close the cycle and give to their community more than what they have received.

As migrant, farmworker students, they have taken it upon themselves to learn and give back to their communities. Understanding the importance and need of role models like themselves, they have visited and spoken to many elementary and high school students, hoping to inspire and guide them towards a college education.

Not one of them considers money as a reason for pursuing an education. Their majors range from social work to electrical engineering, yet their professional goal has much to do with helping people. There is no doubt in my mind that all of them have potential to and will fulfill their dreams. They all have demonstrated to possess excellent research and presentation skills, adding to that beautiful gift which is the desire to share their knowledge.

The future promises to be wonderful, for our developing leaders are mainly concerned about giving and not receiving. Our future promises to be great, for our developing leaders focus on the essence of life, that feeling that helps us understand each other, learn from each other, support each other, LOVE.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Language Immersion Program took place from June 14 to August 14, 1992. The program was made up in two sections. During the first three weeks the participants produced a video to promote higher education addressing high school students and farmworking, Spanish speaking parents. The remaining five weeks they provided CSUF campus tours and orientations to Fresno County elementary, high school, and entering college students. They also spoke to parents through adult classes and radio and television interviews.

The first three weeks meant nothing but hard work. The participants had to do everything from scratch, write the script, learn how to use studio equipment, and produce the video. After so many tries, we finally came up with a product that we could proudly present at the many schools we were to visit.

The last five weeks we spent providing presentations and campus tours. We started by contacting every single public school in Fresno County offering our services. The response was overwhelming to the point that some days we were providing up to five presentations in one day. However, we managed to serve every school that requested our services. In order to achieve this, participants had to volunteer their evening hours preparing for the upcoming presentations. A small group also invested their evening hours visiting migrant labor camps informing children and adults of educational opportunities and the preparation it requires. It is quite a challenge to speak to farmworkers after they've had a day of hard physical labor. LIP participants did not get discouaged; they went from door to door enthusiastically informing those who could afford to listen. The end result was very positive.

Unfortunately the program has come to an end. However, the participants' motivation continues; most of them have expressed a desire to continue helping the community through this effort. What most people would qualify as nothing but hard work, LIP participants refer to their jobs as nothing but "FUN".

NORA AGUIRRE

My name is Nora Aguirre. I graduated from Caruthers High School in June of 1992. Caruthers is my hometown. I have been living in Caruthers for eight years. At first I never thought that I could go to college, but I started getting information about colleges and I decided to give it a try. Since I made my decision of attending college, I have had a lot of support from my family and friends. This helped me to keep on going in order to get to where I am now. I'll be attending California State University Fresno this fall as a first time freshman . I want to major in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in counseling. My professional goal is to be a counselor, if possible at my former high school. I'm the first of my family to graduate from high school and to attend an institution of higher education.

I was born in San Pablo, Jalisco. I spent ten years of my life there. At the age of ten I realized that my parents had to leave me and my brother and sisters behind. They had to come to the United States. At that time I didn't realize the reason for them leaving us. Now that time has passed I realize they had to leave us. My parents wanted to give us a better life to look forward to in the years to come. My parents didn't have much of an education because of their economical situation. Later, my parents sent for us. At the age of eleven I immigrated to the United States with my family. The first place that I came to was Kerman, California. I still have vivid memories of Kerman. My parents have always worked at low paying jobs because they have had too little of an education and do not speak English. I remember that I used to see my parents one at a time because my dad would work during the day and my mom would work during the night. I would never see my parents together even on weekends because my dad used to work.

When I came to the United State, my sisters, my brother and I had to adapt to a whole different life style. The migration to California made a big change in our lives. It was not easy for me to start school, my fourth grade year in Kerman Floyd elementary, it was not easy for me. I went through a lot of hard times. I remember how scared I was when I went to school for the first time because I didn't know a word of English. I couldn't communicate with my teacher because she did not know any Spanish. When I talked to her

she would just look at me like as if was crazy. After my first year I didn't want to go to school anymore. Later, with the help of others, I started learning English. When I was in fifth grade we moved to Caruthers and since then we have been living there. I completed my eighth grade at Caruthers elementary.

My high school years were not as tough as my years in elementary school. My freshman year I found out that I had made the honor roll. I did not know about this academic ranking. When I found out, I was motivated to do even better in the years ahead. Throughout my four High School years I was involved in many clubs and organizations, including the Spanish Club, and the Future Homemakers of America (FHA). As an active member of my class, I was on the track team for three years. As for community affiliations, I was a co-leader of Girl Scouts and a volunteer tutor for Caruthers Elementary. This experience helped me realize that I enjoy working with children. For this reason I decided to enter a field where I am going to be able to help children.

At this point I am working with the Language Immersion Program (L.I.P), here at Fresno State. In the L.I.P we are working while helping our community. The program consists of four groups; the Elementary School, the High School, the Incoming Students, and another group that works with the community in general. When I was hired for this program, I asked to be placed in the elementary group. We mainly provide tours, presentations, and general information about how important school is. I really enjoy working with the elementary group because it gives me a better understanding of my future job.

Through the good times and bad times I have gained very important information and learned about myself and the world I live in. As a counselor I want to give back to the community what I myself have learned and help everyone achieve their dreams, and goals.

MARIA DE LOS ANGELES ALONSO

Hi! my name is Maria de los Angeles Alonso but my friends call me Angela. I was born in Sanger and raised in Parlier. I'm proud to say that I am a Mexican-American and have great parents, Julio and Clara Alonso. My parents were born in Leon Guanajuato, Mexico. Being that my parents were unable to obtain a higher education, I'm proud to say that I've graduated from Parlier High School. This fall of 1992 will be my first year attending California State University, Fresno. I'm majoring in Liberal Studies. I'm planning to come back to teach the children in my community and tell them how school is going to change their lives forever. I want to tell them how it was for me in high school. For example, I was in The Teachers of Tomorrow, Migrant Club, and Upward Bound. These clubs helped me in various ways. It helped me get information that I didn't know about the the university. The clubs that I was in also took me to tours in different campuses like: Fresno State, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, U C Davis, and UCLA. Plus I would tell the children about my extra-curricular activities, the hobbies I like doing in and out of school. For instance, I like to play softball, volley ball, basket ball, and swimming. When I'm home doing nothing I like going to the park with my family and spending time with them. Dancing and listening to the radio is another hobby I like doing for leisure time.

My parents want me to go to college. They encourage me by saying that if they only could change things around to better there children lives and theirs as well. Seeing that my parents have only an elementary education makes me want to attend college.

My family and I have struggled and worked very hard in the fields like: picking, rolling, tieing, pruning grapes, picking strawberries, and planting onions. The sad thing about this was that all of us had to get up real early to work in the fields. After working in the fields in the summer I would enter school two weeks late. Just so that my parents would buy new clothes. Being in school made me sleepy and tired. I would try to stay awake just to make sure I knew what to do for homework the next day. After school I had a part-time job. As soon as work was over, I would have to go to the fields again and not return until dark. I barely had time to do my homework. I really didn't have enough time to spend with my friends. At that point I didn't care because all I wanted was to

just get some rest period! The worst thing was that on weekends I had to work too! That's one of the reasons I want to attend CSU Fresno. I feel that was enough field work and if I can't do anything for myself no one can!!! At this point college is the number one goal on my mind. Hopefully, God would give me the strength and the will to let me live and finish my education.

An older sister that I have her name is Maribel, she really influenced me by telling me to attend CSU Fresno. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't be going to Fresno State this fall. I really thank and appreciate her for all the help she's given me. I remember when she would tell me think about your future. Don't depend on no one but yourself. I really took that into consideration. What do you plan to do ten years from now? she would ask me. I wouldn't have an answer for her because I really didn't know what I was going to do after high school graduation. The more she told me how fun college was, I pictured it interesting and fun at the same time. What she told me that caught my attention was that she asked me, do you want to get pregnant and get married? Of course, I didn't want to do the stuff she was talking about. She told me it's was not like high school.

It made me think about the time when my family and I been through the marches with Cesar Chavez. My family and I have walked from Parlier to Reedley and Reedley to Dinuba, sometimes even further holding up flags, banners, and wearing T-shirts that said "boycott grapes". It was a real experience for me because at first when my dad use to take us out to go boycott stores, I would feel embarrassed going out there just thinking that maybe my friends were going to see me. For some reason or another I didn't feel so ashamed anymore especially when I knew what was the cause of all of this. Then I knew my dad was doing the right thing.

To me this was all an experience. Also seeing my mom making all the food for the farm workers by herself. At first, it started off when she went out one day to see how the farmworkers were doing. She realized that no one brought them anything to eat. So, she decided to make them something to eat. Next thing you know is that the farm workers ask my mom if she wouldn't mind making them food and they'll bring her the food so she can make it. My mom being such a nice person accepted to do the food for the workers.

I remember when Dolores Huerta used to talk to my mom and thanked her for all that she was doing for the farmworkers and not getting paid for it. At the time it was hard for the whole family because my dad was out of a job. There were a lot of mouths to feed.

In my family there is five girls and two boys. My sisters are Agustina, Maribel, Lupe, Elena, and of course me Angela! Also I have two brothers that are O.K. There names are Julio and Francisco Alonso. At times I felt so frustrated about all of this that was going on. Seeing my dad going to the meetings that the farmworkers had and not having a job at the time made me feel that I had to do something for him but I couldn't do anything. My mom was just a house-wife. Something inside of me told me that I had to attend college. The marches and the boycotting were going on for a long time and I thought it was never going to end. The good thing about all of this was that I got to meet real important people like the Kennedy's, Jesse Jackson, Lou Diamond Phillips and other important people. Then my dad found out that it was over. No more strikes and no more frustrations. In a way I was glad it was over. It made me realize how important school is and it's true that school is the only way out!!! It has made me think on how my family is struggling in getting a better life. Hopefully, some day I can accomplish my goals by graduating from college, making my parents proud. Proving for my parents I can become someone in life. I know that's what I want and they also want it too!!!

FIDEL AMEZQUITA

I was born on January 28, 1971 to Antonio Amezquita and Maria G. Gonzalez in, a then small town called, Nueva Italia. Nueva Italia is in the state of Michoacan and is located between Guadalajara and Lazaro Cardenas. I am currently residing in a small town called Parlier about 40 minutes south of Fresno. Both my parents are migrant farmworkers and their combined income is just enough to support us. I am the first of my family to attend a university and hopefully my brother will be the next. My major at this time is Liberal Studies, with a minor in Early Child Development. My professional goal is to become the best teacher I can.

Both my parents arrived in the United States in 1979. My mother was forced to leave her family because my father was an alcoholic, and on several occasions threatened her life. She crossed the border in 1979 as an illegal alien and fortunately arrived at Parlier, where a nice lady took her in. A couple of months passed and she met my present stepfather. With his help and support she was able to go back for us.

I was nine years old when my mother decided to bring my older sister, my younger brother, and me to California. It was in Parlier that my mother had made a new life for herself. I don't resent the fact that she had found someone else that wasn't my father. She immediately enrolled us in the public schools, because she wanted us to receive an education. Even though, my mother never attended a single day of school, she is a very intelligent person.

Blanca, my older sister, was placed in the eighth grade and after that she went on to Parlier High School where on the last semester of her senior year she dropped out. I was put in the third grade and thanks to my parents and God, I am still climbing the educational ladder. My brother, Jaime, was put in kindergarten. He graduated this year from Parlier High and hopefully will change his mind of taking a year off from school to work.

Like I said, I was enrolled in the third grade almost at the end of the school year. I flunked third grade because I didn't know enough English and my mother thought it was best for me to stay another year. At first I didn't like the idea, but now I realize that it was for my own good. I learned English after my first summer and once the school year came around I went back to school with confidence and high self -esteem. I now new how to carry a conversation with the other kids and best of all I

understood everything that was said around me. I completed my elementary and secondary schooling in Parlier.

My high school years were great. I had most of my childhood friends and of course new ones too. In high school it wasn't until I was in my sophomore year that I was placed in college prep classes to prepare me for college. Being the son of migrant labor parents, I never thought I would attend a college, much less a university. It wasn't until my senior year that my parents urged me to think about college. I talked with my counselors and with some representatives of different universities and read about what they had to offer. Once I had read all the information on the different schools, I decided to attend California State University, Fresno.

My first year at CSUF many things happened to me. First, my second oldest brother who was living in Mexico was shot and killed by some corrupt police officials. This happened two weeks into my fall semester. I had to leave the country to attend my brothers' funeral. Once I returned from my trip, I couldn't concentrate on my school work. Instead I thought about how I had never taken the time to go and visit a brother who I had not seen for eleven years, and when I did see him it was in a coffin.

Fortunately, there were people in the university who understood my grief and who were willing to help me deal with it. I thank all the staff at the University Migrant Services for their understanding and compassion. Thanks to them and other people, I was able to continue with my studies. Now I enjoy my education, and I have also met many good friends. Friends who like me at some point in their lives have gone through similar aches and pains.

My future goals include graduating from the university with a Liberal Studies degree and teaching in a small community like the one I grew up in. I have never really involved myself in community events or volunteered my services, but since I have been in the Language Immersion Program I realize how important it is to get involved in ones' community. Hopefully with my degree I will be able to give back to a community that needs my services. My goal as a teacher is to make a difference in a child's life. I especially want to reach out to those children who think they don't have a friend in the world. I want those children to see a friend in me.

VERONICA ARANDA

My name is Veronica Aranda. I graduated from Riverdale high school on June 1992, which is located in the rural area in the small town of Riverdale. I will be a freshman this fall at California State University, Fresno. My family is from Guanajuato, México. I plan to major in Liberal Studies and become an elementary school teacher, my minor is in Chicano Latino Studies. I would one day like to graduate from college with my teaching credential and go back to my community to teach there. Being the first generation of my family to attend college made it a little hard for me to leave home and make the decision to go to college.

I first came to the United States when I was about 7 or 8 years old. I have been living here ever since. We have traveled to México three times in the last 11 years.

My father is the sole supporter of our family. He works in the fields all day long and like most agricultural workers he gets paid a minimum wage. My 17 year old brother also works in the fields during the summer, but that is for all of his expenses.

There are six members in my family. Which includes my father, my mother, my two brothers, my baby sister, and myself.

My father never went to any kind of school. All that he knows was taught to him by his friends. My grandfather never forced him to attend school. Because he had a big family, he needed his two sons to help support the family. My mother dropped out when she was in third grade. My grandfather never told her to attend school either. One of my brothers is going to start his junior year this fall at Riverdale High school. My younger brother is going to be in the sixth grade this fall at Burrel Elementary school. My sister is only three years old, and she doesn't go to school. In my house the language that we speak is Spanish. When my brothers and I are talking alone we speak English, but when our parents are around we speak Spanish.

I am the first generation of my family to attend college. Although I have not actually started college, I have achieved a very high goal, of being here at the university. I personally am very proud of myself and I also know that all my family is too.

I have been studying in the United States for eleven years. I started in the second grade and graduated from the eighth grade from Burrel Elementary school. In elementary school I had a lot of experiences, but the one that I remember the most is going to school and meeting new friends, and learning a new language. Then I went on to Riverdale High school and graduated from there with honors becauce of my high grade point average. During those four years of high school I was involved in the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan Club (M.E.Ch.A), and The Leadership Academy, and Spurs. During those four years of school I also learned many responsibilities.

Like to study hard and to do my homework on time. Also little things like being on time to class and being prepared to work. had very little institutional support. The counselor at our school did very little to help me. There were only two people who helped me. One of those persons was Mrs. Holly Bundy, the Director of state and federal extra curriculum activities. The other person was Mr. Casey Crockett the Migrant students and ESL teacher. I also had the help of my friends. From the University I had a lot of support. The University Migrant Services (UMS), Equal Opportunities Program (EOP), and CAMP helped me a lot, they helped me out financially and with counselors to assist me.

I also have very little support from my family. Being the first person in my family to attend college and being a woman, made it hard for me to convince my parents to let me attend. Fortunately after talking to my parents and taking them to meetings, they understood that I would be doing a lot of good to myself and to them by persuing the educational advantage that I was given to me.

Here, at the university, I plan to be in Colmena Hispana Universitaria and maybe in Teatro Tortilla. I really don't want to be involved with many extra curricular activities my freshman year and not be able handle them. I would like to first see how it is and see if I will be able to handle it all. I don't want to loose concentration on my studies.

My goals are to get my teaching credential and to teach at an elementary school. I would like to teach grades kindergarten to third. Either of those grades would we be fine. I would like to one day go back to my own community and teach there. I would like to help make the community a little bigger and better. By giving them some of the knowledge that I have learned.

EUTIQUIO ARELLANO

The goals of my life and experiences I have left behind are very similar, if not the same, from the life and goals that many Hispanics living in this country have. I would like to present to you a brief but complete autobiography of my life.

My name is Eutiquio Arellano. I am currently attending California State University, Fresno and have attended this university for two years. Next fall I will begin my third year in college with twelve units. I think it will be all I can take for the semester because I will be working at least 30 hours per week. I have a very special reason why I need to work hard, which I'm going to reveal to you later in this paper. I would like to obtain my Master's Degree in Spanish and have a minor in International Communications. My professional goal is to work as an instructor at a community college or university. I would like to find a job where I would be able to work with the Hispanic community and help them in any way I can, either with education or community services: such as counseling, informing and broadcasting in Spanish, or any other service that will contribute to the benefit of my people.

My hometown, where I lived for many years before coming to Fresno was Arvin, California. There are seven members in my family; I am the second to the oldest of five brothers. I was born in El Valle de Santiago, Guanajuato, Mexico. I have lived most of my life in a small town named El Xoconoxtle, close to El Valle de Santiago. I was brought to California when I was only two years old. My parents have spent their lives migrating back and forth from "El Xoco" to California and vice versa, seeking the temporary work in the grapevines in California, which only lasts three to four months a year. Usually this is during the summer, when no school is in session. This is how it was for most of my childhood, and because of this reason my education always had a little bit of imbalance.

My parents' profession has always been the same; "trabajadores del campo." They have spent their lives either

working in the grapevines in California or trying to make a living in Mexico out of my father's own piece of land. During the summers in Arvin we would help our parents do field work. This was the way we learned that if we didn't continue our education, we would have to struggle all our lives working in the fields. It was also a way for our parents to save money by not leaving us at home and pay someone else to take care of us. At this moment, my parents are living in Mexico with my two younger brothers, who are 11 and 3, and my 17 year old sister. They decided to harvest my father's land, where my father will do all the work while my mother will stay home to take care of the family.

Both of my parents only completed elementary in Mexico; they never went back to school again because of economic necessity. My family's native language is Spanish. All of us know how to speak, read and write in Spanish, except for my parents and my three year old brother. We all speak, read and write in English as well. At this point, there are only two of us attending college. My older sister Silvia recently finished her third year in Bakersfield College and plans to continue her education at U.C. Davis. As of this time she is living with one of my aunts in Salinas, California, where she will stay until school begins and then she plans to move to the dorms at Davis.

My other sister Eloisa (in Mexico) decided not to attend school any more because she felt that it was better to hang around with her friends, who like her, didn't attend school. I understand her because she arrived to Mexico without knowing anyone. The friends that she has are the ones whose mind is set on being mothers (not being left alone) and survive from a small society where women who get married make it through life. I know my sister, and I know she will soon recognize that there is something else in life besides just having a family. In a way I feel good because I like the traditional Mexican family where the woman doesn't work, but yet I feel that she has not been given the same opportunity that Silvia and I were given. I hope that she will make the best decision for herself. It will never be too late if she ever decides to continue her education. My little brother, Sergio, has

successfully finished sixth grade in Mexico and hopefully he will continue school at the secondary level.

When I came to this country in 1972 (the same year I was born) I obtained my "mica" and I was taken back to Mexico after a few months. I started my education in Mexico when I was five years old. I started in kindergarten and during the same year I also attended kindergarten in Arvin, California for a few months, when my parents went to work in the fields. The same process happened every school year of my life. Every year I had to leave my friends, and move to another school in the middle of the school year. As I said earlier, this process affected mainly my process of learning English as a second language. The schooling in the United States for my brothers and I, was like a child care center and playground where we could stay while my parents were working. I didn't graduate from primary level (6th grade) in Mexico because at that time I was in Arvin, I didn't graduate from junior high in Arvin because I was in Mexico, and I didn't graduate from secondary level(9th grade) in Mexico because I started high school in Arvin. Finally during the time that I started High school my parents decided to have us learn English. They decided to stay year round working in the fields for almost four years. That's when we finally learned English. It was the time when my sister Silvia and I were old enough to make our own decisions of continuing a higher education.

I completed my four years of high school in Arvin High School where I graduated in June of 1990. Our parents demonstrated their support to us by making the sacrifice of enduring the harsh working conditions and not returning to Mexico, the land that we love. In high school my main objective was to learn English. I was a junior when I decided that I wanted to continue a higher education at Fresno State University. I knew I didn't want to go through the same struggle that may parents went through. I know that my parents have always struggled economically therefore one of my main goals is to be able to help my parents in the future.

ANA CRUZ

When did time begin? When will it end? Or is it infinite? If it has no beginning or ending, how important are we? Who looks over us? Or are we looking out for ourselves? Maybe we are looking out for ourselves and maybe we are not. Whichever the case is, we have a certain freedom which sometimes also seems infinite. What is my time and how have I used my freedom?

How did my life start? I first saw light on May 23, 1972. It was in a medium size town in Michoacan, Mexico called Pajacuaran. (Hard to say, isn't it?). I do not know if this means anything to anyone (I mean anyone besides my parents). I know that it means something to me. To me, it means that from that day on I had to survive. Where would I survive? Well, I would survive in my hometown where I was born and would live for the next three years. I lived in a small house with one bedroom, a family room which was used as a bedroom, and a small kitchen which was connected to the house, but you could not get into without stepping into the backyard or *corral* as they are called. I lived there with three brothers and four sisters and my mother. I will never know how we managed. Where was my father through all this time? Sometimes he was at home and sometimes he was not. Most of the times he was in United States working. I recently visited my hometown . It is very nice and, like one of my brothers says, it reminds me of a Steinbeck novel.

I was an infant when my mother decided that she would try to join my father in the United States. She was still breast-feeding me, but she knew that for everyone's sake she would have to leave us in hope to some day come back for us. (I must have been crancky for a while but I think that I got over it). It is easy for me to understant why she took that risk. She knew that we would not have a very good life if we stayed in Mexico. She crossed the border alone the first time. My father was not with her and the story I do not know in detail, but I do know that she risked a lot. She joined my father in Selma, California and immediately started working. It was some time during the grape season and she did not wait to start working. The day after she joined my father, she began to work. Her first job in the United States was in the grape harvest. She began picking grapes for wine. She was the only woman working there. It was

very hard for her but she survived long enough to raise enough money to bring her children to the United States.

I do not remember much about the years that I was separated from my mother. The only memories that I have about those years are of me asking my sister Nena if she was my mom. The next memory that comes to mind is of me riding in a car with some of my brothers and sisters. I remember riding down a dirt road in Selma, crying because there would be no milk where I was going. I wanted to go back home. The United States were not as great as everyone had told me. Even though I was only three years old I knew that I would have to work hard at surviving there too. Fortunately,I did survive and learned to love my new home.

When the grape season came in 1975, my whole family prepared for work. Since my mother did not know many people, she could not find anyone to leave me with so she took me along with her to work. As you can probably figure, I did not work because I was too young. I grew up in the fields of Selma, Reedley, Fowler and other small towns of the valley. I might not have been able to work with my hands but I could help in other ways. I used to take water from row to row for my six brothers and sisters who were living with me at the time. When they were not thirsty I would sing to them and when it go too boring I would bury my shoes. This last distraction got me in trouble a lot because I hardly ever found them again.

At five years of age I entered Indianola Elementary School in Selma. I lived and worked in Selma with my family until I was nine years old. At nine years of age I moved with my family to Caruthers. There I continued t0 work with them during the summer picking grapes and tying vines in the winter. Switching schools was very difficult for me but I continued to strive for good grades in school like I always had. At this time I was attending Riverdale Elementary School. Where is Riverdale located? Well, Riverdale is a small town of about two thousand people located about twenty-three miles south of Fresno. When I moved there there were very few Mexicans living there. As I went on in school I began to succeed in my studies. A couple of years were rough but I handled them well.

When I was about eleven years old my sister Nena passed away. (I still do not understand why death is such a taboo word in this culture but it is so I use the substitutes.) This time was difficult for the whole family. A few months after her death her children came

to live with my family (Juan and Joaquin). Two years later their father also passed away and so they were left in our care. They too began to strive to get as much as they could out of their education. Why am I mentioning all of this? I mention it because they became part of my family and part of my reason for succeeding. Now they are my brothers.

I entered Riverdale High School at the age of fourteen. I had two best friends who were not Mexican so people thought that I wanted to be white. Did I want to be white? Actually, it never really crossed my mind. I never bothered with people who thought that because my friends treated me like they did everyone else. Actually, maybe they treated me a little different. They treated me like their best friend and did not bother with other people's comments. I joined different clubs while I went to high school, including Future Teachers of America (because I wanted to be a teacher) in which I served as president for one year, I was a member of the choir (I love to sing), a member of SADD (I did not even drive or drink), I was a teachers aide for a first and a third grade class, and a teachers aide for an adult ESL class (the teacher needed someone to translate). And people still thought that I was ashamed to speak Spanish and be called a Mexican. During all this time I was never very sure of what I wanted to do. I never really gave college much thought. I knew that it was there but I still had not figured out what I would do with my time and freedom. What I did was to make sure that I took college prep classes. I never bothered with accounting or agriculture or computers. I saw no point in those classes. I have always enjoyed humanities and would rather drop out than take any class that I did not like. By the time that I graduated from high school, according to my counselor, I was ready for college. Yeah, I was. Except for one thing, I never really knew what college was all about . I had already applied for financial aid but had never truly understood it. I had chosen a major (liberal studies) but I never really knew what it was about. I had even chosen my classes already but did not know what they were about. What could I do now?

So what did I do? I spoke to my teachers who were more than willing to help me, especially my English teacher. They talked to me and advised in what they could. Then came EOP (Education Opportunity Program). The EOP councelors were the ones who helped me the most. They talked to me. Told me that I had already been

accepted to Fresno State and that they could also accept me into their program. They were the ones who motivated me. After I talked to them, I knew that I wanted to go to a University. (Sometimes it takes forever for me to make a decision). Well, that's when I brought up my courage to tell my mom that I would move out and live on my own. I told her that I felt that I was mature enough to take on that responsibility. She hesitated but when I convinced her of my determination, she agreed that it was the best thing for everyone.

So what came next? Summer Bridge came next. Summer Bridge was a breeze. I could not believe that my first experience with college was so easy. I had a lot of fun at Summer Bridge. I did my homework every day and met a lot of people. The only problem that I had at Summer Bridge was that I missed my family. And of course, (I will never forget) the subject about me being ashamed of my ethnicity came up again. But I resolved it again and from then on I felt a lot more comfortable with myself and my friends.

After Summer Bridge came the real thing. I was finally in college. I began to take my general education courses, which went well. I found out about UMS and decided to look into it. The program was not that much different from EOP except there were only Mexican-Americans involved in it. I met the counselors and my peer advisor. Yes, another peer advisor. I already had one in EOP but I did not mind because I got along well with both of them. Anyway, that's when I learned to use all of my freedom. I don't believe that I took advantage of it. I think that I used it wisely. I took enough time to study and, I also learned to use my time. I took time for my friend, for school and for my family. My time never seemed to be too limited. That's when I decided to join organizations at school. No, I did not join MEChA. Why didn't I join? The truth is that I was not for me. I joined CLASE which stands for Chicano Latino Association of Student Educators. By the time that I decided to join clubs it was almost the end of my first school year.

What happened during my second year in college? Let's see. The fall semester started out fine. I had spent the whole summer at home working in an onion packing house. Yes, it did smell bad but I got used to it. Now back to my story. I came back and changed my major from Liberal Studies to English. I was very happy with my new major. That semester I also began to take Anthropology classes because I thought that I wanted a minor in it. Boy was I wrong. By

the end of the semester I was so in love with anthropology (yes, in love) that I decided to get a double major in English and Anthropology. I did so well in the Anthropology classes that I decided to take four more in the spring.

In the spring of 1992 I decided to join more clubs. Since I had been an environmentalist for a while, I had been trying to join the Ecology Society and in the spring I finally had time. Through them I became involved with Tree Fresno. I volunteered on the weekends that I had free to help plant trees. I mean with a shovel and my bare hands. I also joined the Anthropology club. I made a lot of friends in the Anthropology club and got to know a lot of my professors. Then I decided to try CWAA. What is CWAA? It stands for Chicano writers and artists association. They are a fun group. Very creative and intelligent too. During this time I was still involved in CLASE. The club was struggling and it still is but I enjoy working with it and plan to stay with it as long as I can. The best time that I had during this semester was during my archaeological fieldwork class. (We went to the Comanche Reservoir.) It took place during spring break. I did not mind giving up my spring break. I actually enjoyed the class. I believe that I was the youngest person on that trip and that the oldest person was close to sixty. We camped out for the whole week. It was not too bad. Maybe the first couple of days were a little difficult because it rained and we could not keep dry. Even when we changed clothes we did not stay dry for long. Fortunately, the rain stopped and we continued our work. We worked closely without any problems. I guess that when a group of people work hard to fulfill a job that they all enjoy they will do an excellent job. It was a good semester and my grades showed my confidence and content with how I had been using my time and my freedom.

The summer came and another project came up. As soon as I returned from the trip that I had taken with my mom to Mexico I got the news about my conversation partner. I was very happy with the news. I had applied for a conversation partner at the American English Institute office at Fresno State during the spring semester. As a conversation partner, I was to meet with a student or a group of students and talk with them so that they could practice their English speaking. Most of these students are thinking of a future college education at Fresno State, but since they are all foreign, they need to learn the language before they can pass the test that determines

whether they can attend or not. So you see, I can be a nice person. I love what I do. Some people have given me a hard time about it. I guess that they cannot understand that I do not need to be paid for everything I do in order to be happy. It is a volunteer job and I must love it otherwise I would not have ever become involved with it. Through this job I have learned a lot about the Japanese culture, some about Indonesian culture, and about Thai culture. What can I say? It's my kind of job. Working with a diverse group of people is great. I can learn so much from them and can teach them so much about my culture, which they are always interested in.

Then I came to LIP. I do not see the need to define the program since I know that you will be reading it in other profiles contained in this work. So what will I say about it? I can say that it is a great idea. I'm glad that we are going out to the public schools and targeting everyone and not only the students or the parents. We are even targeting elementary school students. The elementary school students seem to be the most impressed. I believe that targeting them is a good idea for that same reason. Hopefully the impression will remain in their memories so that they may never forget about their interest in a career. I believe that all the work done here is good. I know that we are reaching those who want to be reached and hopefully motivating those who don't seem to care much for an education. At least at the last presentation that my group did, everyone seemed interested in the information that we offered. I truly felt good about what I was doing and I know that they would like to come in and see the campus.

So maybe I did not explain time or freedom. Maybe I touched on each subject a little. Maybe no one truly cares about it. I know that I mentioned my family a lot in this paper, especially my mom, but I have to. Without them I would not be here today. I need their support, because as long as I have them pushing me on I know that I will make it. And no, they did not pay me to write this in. I tried to make it humorous in their honor. Maybe I did it because they always make me smile and now I want to make them smile. With this paper I am telling them how important they are in my life. Especially my four brothers; Joe, Alfonso, Joaquin, and Juan. No guys, I'm not being nice because I need somehting. I know that you understand. So what do you think? I think that we are looking out for each other. And of course my friends are also helping immensely. (yes I do have friends). You know who you are.

Sonia Flores

I'm an incoming Freshman at California State University, Fresno. I graduated from Sanger High School. I plan to major in Pre-Veterinarian Science and minor in Computer Science. My goals are to accomplish all my education. I was born in Fresno CA., July 21, 1974, raised in Nayarit Mexico and California. My Mother was born in Nuevo Laredo Mexico, she was raised in Mexico and California. My Father was born in Guadalajara Jalisco Mexico, raised in Mexico, My Grandfather was also born in Nuevo Laredo Mexico, raised in Mexico. My Grandmother was born in Laredo Texas, raised in Texas and in Mexico. My sister was born in Reedley CA., raised in Mexico and California, I'm the first generation in all my of family who has the opportunity and encouragement to college, instead of going to work in the fields.

My families background is Mexican. The first time my Dad came here to the United States, he started working in the fields with a Mexican passport. My mother came here to the U.S. when she was a teenager and started helping out her parents by working in the fields. My families occupation is agric. labor. My family consist of five members,my mother, grandfather, grandmother,sister, and myself.

My mothers' education was only up to the sixth grade in Mexico. She wishes her education had been better, but she had to help her family,raise her younger brothers and sisters. Her wishes are for me to continue my education.

My grandfathers' education was only up to the fourth grade. After this his mother gave him the education he was not receiving in school.

My grandmothers' education was poor. She didn't have a school education, because the schools were far away from where she lived. The only thing she knew was how to write her name and read a little. I have told her that it is never too late to learn something.

My sister's education, up to this moment, is going great. She is only 13 years old and has learned English. When my mother, sister and myself came to the United States, my sister was pressured by the rest of her classmates to learn English. She learned it in three months and now she is speaking it very well. We are all proud of

her. For myself it wasn't very easy, even though I knew a little English in H.S. I was in E.S.L. classes. When I was in regular classes I had to struggle and compete with everyone else. Slowly I learned and was doing well in school.

My families' native language is Spanish. From all my family members no one has come to college, and I will be the first one to open the doors for my sister and all my cousins. I hope even for the rest of my family.

My educational background comes first from Mexico. I studied in Mexico from first to ninth grade. I have been raised in a manner that if I don't do things for myself, I can't expect someone else to do them for me.

I have been in the United States for three years, since the tenth to twelveth grade. I have learned things I thought I could not learn. I have made a lot of friends that have helped me view college as a good experience to consider.

My experiences in elementary were great, although I studied in Mexico. During my third grade. I won a contest. I was the princess of my school. In fifth grade I also won another contest in Math & writing. In elementary school, I never heard about college. The only time I remember hearing about it, was when I saw one of my neighbors studying. I asked him where he was studing and he told me that he was studying in college and that he was going to be a Doctor. He inspired me to go to college and become a Veterinarian. I love to help animals and take care of them. Now I have made it to college, and will try to accomplish my goals.

My high school experiences have also been great here in the United State. My first day of school everyone treated me nice. I was placed in E.S.L. classes (English as a Second Language) I was there about 2-3 weeks. Later I was transfered to regular classes. At that time I met a lot of people. During my senior year I became the President of the E.S.L. Club. We organized activities such as, trips to Sonora Ca, Santa Cruz, and other fun places; we also organized dances. What I had more fun doing

was helping the E.S.L. teacher in translating to their students and at assemblies. For me it was a great experience being the leader of the club and meeting new people.

The institutional support I received from my counselor was great, every time something new came they always contacted me to

see if I wanted to apply. I received a lot of support from my teachers, they always told me that if I wanted to accomplish something I will always be ahead of everyone else if I wished to do so, and then be the same as others. They think I will always meet my goals. I had three special teacher who helped me with everything they could, Mr. Hasegawa, Mrs. Moreno, and Mr. Martin, who always helped me and other with everything. They would give us letters of recommendations, help us finish our papers, and also with some of our homework that we didn't understand. I give them all my gratitude. Without their help I would have not made it to college.

The college information I had in High School, was just about Financial Aid, Registration, UMS, and EOP. Those were the only things the rest I will have to learn little by little by reading the catalog and giving campus tours of the University.

The college affiliation, I plan to be with is Colmena, but not until I start coming to college in the Fall.

The community affiliations, and volunteer work I have been helping with, is the Catholic Church at the Father Annibal"s House, were you give food for people that don't have work and at the store were the clothes are in low price, and also in the churchs choir.

The experience I have had at this moment at the University, has been fun. I have leaned here all the Eight schools are located, here some of the building are located, and here to get information , and who to contact, how to use the library sources, computers and all the other things we need to know. I have also met more people with the LIP Program, this experience has been wonderful because when I come in the Fall, I'll know were everything is at.

Veterinarian is the major I will try to establish and hope to be in the future, because I love animals, like I said before I don't like them to suffer, because they cannot tell us here the pain is coming from.

The minor I plan to take is computer science, because I will like to know more about computers, and because if I become a Veterinarian I will also need to know a little about computers. My degree objective is to get a B.S. (Bachelor of Science). In veterinarian.

My professional goal is to become a great Veterinarian and keep helping animals, with my job, I will help my mother so my sister can get an education in college therefore, she will also be someone in the future.

The plans I have to assist my community are to help low income families who have pets, give them low prices for their pet's medication, because it's more expensive when you take your pets to the veterinarian, than if you go yourself to the doctor, and most families just live of what they were payed for the week.

ALEX GARCIA

Tomorrow, tomorrow, and tomorrow.....This is what I say whenever I feel society is at it's unknown climax. I'm a thoughtful person of the near future. An example of an unknown climax is the life of a farmworker. The farm- worker doesn't know if he will have better opportunities tomorrow. My family and I work out in the fields seasonally. I understand that everyone tries to be the best they can be. By attaining a high education, anything can then be accomplished. Everyone has tasks, missions, and/or goals to accomplish. In my situation, it is a mission. A mission because it's quite long and it has goals within it. My mission is to get a major as soon as possible so that my parents can retire from working in the fields. I believe that humans should work using their brains and not their bodies (physically).

Now, onward with the introduction. My name is Alejandro Garcia Garcia and my family consists of my mother, and two younger sisters. We currently live in Parlier and we've been living there for ten years. My childhood and present life has been school. As for my mother, her life has been working out in the fields. I just graduated from Parlier High School. To me, this is an ideal high school in terms of all the help that was available. The counselors were always there when I needed them. As soon as a scholarship notice would come I'd be one of the first ones to know about it. The same happened with all the helpful orientations that took place, I was always informed and I really appreciate the counselor's support. Other students might have a different point of view. Some students say that the counselors didn't care about their

education. Maybe it's true, or maybe not. All I know is that they were there for me when I needed them.

I applied to the California State University ,Fresno and fortunately they accepted me. I also applied for other programs such as the University Migrant Services (UMS) and the Equal Opportunity Program (EOP). Both of these programs helped me get into the University and I'm positive that they will keep assisting me in the near future. Hopefully things will go well as I attend the University in the near future. I think I'm prepared for the challenge because I went to a community college in the summer of 1990. I received three (3) units for passing the Advance Placement Test for Spanish. My major is Engineering along with a minor in Criminology. I know it will be tough to accomplish such goal. The only way to succeed is not to give up my hopes and have fun once in a while. I have self-confidence and good self-esteem that will guide me through the four or five years of university. In a way, I am happy to be part of the University, mainly because I'm the first in my family to attend college and this also gives me courage to overcome my academic work.

All my special thanks go straight to the Language Immersion Program (L.I.P) and those involved in the program. This program has helped me in various academic areas and I'm sure it has helped others as well. For one, the teamwork is there and we all assist one another in any way we can. One valuable thing that I learned was how to use the library. This library is important and I'm glad they showed me how to use it.

There are so many things that I learned from being in the program and hopefully it will continue to serve the community.

This is one thing I loved about the extension program, getting the word to the community. We visited various schools and programs. sometimes they would come to the University. It was much better when they would visit us because they could not only get information on various topics, but also get a good view of the University. I personally feel that we did a good job in all the presentations and tours that we gave. Every team in the program did a terrific job in organizng the presentations, making all the phone calls, and other duties that were assigned.

Like I said before, I strongly believe that this program should continue and last for years to come. To the community it is a benefit, as for the students it is an experience as well.An experience that will last long and the experience is that of a college ambassador.

By having this program we all benefit from it, and hopefully it will continue to keep on helping students help themselves.

LAURA L. GUADIAN

Since I came to the United States I never thought of coming to college. I didn't even know that college existed, and I didn't have plans for the future. The reason that I wasn't interested in coming to college was because I didn't know English. But thanks to my high school teachers and my sisters support, I learned it fast. Now I am attending Fresno State University and this is going to be my third year. I came from a very small town called Firebaugh, my parents and I live at a government camp. All my family is from Romita Guanajuato, that is the name of the town we used to live in Mexico. Right now I don't have a major, but what I am interested in is accounting. My professional goal is to graduate from CSUF. I am the first generation in my family to come to college, and I think I will make a good example for my little sister that will be coming in four years.

My father has been in California for 38 years. He came to work to California when he was 20 years old. Since then he has been going back to Mexico and coming back again to work. 15 years ago my dad started getting my family's immigration papers ready, so we could come to live with him. 11 years ago my two older sisters, Olivia and Juana came to California when they were 16 and 18 years old, and my oldest brother José when he was 20. None of them attended school. The three of them started working because of necessity and also because they thought that if they went to school the students weren't going to speak Spanish. Three to four years later the rest of us arrived to California. We came because my dad had our immigration papers ready for all of us. We didn't have a place to stay so we lived with my aunt for a month in San Fernando while my sisters rented a house. They got a three bedroom and one bathroom house. We all moved in except for my dad, who was living in Fresno County, working in the fields and sending my sisters the money to pay the rent.

We started attending school within two months after our arrival. A year and half later the five youngest of us came to live with my dad and attended Firebaugh High Scchool. The two oldest ones that moved with my dad to Firebaugh went back to San Fernando. Right now Olivia, Juana, Mary, and my youngest brother

Abraham work for a company in San Fernando, California. José works in construction while living in Stockton. My sister Claudia and I are attending college and my little sister Rosa age14, will be a Freshman in high school. My father, as all migrant parents, works in the fields while my mother stays home.

As you can see I have a very big family, but most of them without an education. We are ten members in my family including my parents and myself. My parents never finished primary school. José, Olivia, and Juana just graduated from sixth grade in Mexico and then started working. Two members of my family, Mary and Abraham, dropped out of high school. The three youngest ones Claudia, Rosa, and I are still in school thanks to God and all my family. The native language in my family is Spanish.

I have been here in California since I was 12 years old, and I've been studying here for seven years. I did all my primary school in Mexico. In Mexico the teachers don't talk about college. When I came to California I didn't know that college existed. During my first two years of high school I didn't receive any information about college. I was already a Junior in high school when some of my classmates started talking about going to college, but I wasn't interested yet. During my twelfth grade we had a conference in the high school library. I still remember that people from the Outreach Office went to talk to us about the services the university provided. At that conference Rebecca Sanchez from the Outreach office started talking to me.

I was filling out a card and she came up to me. She read my name and said, "Laura, are you planning to go to college?"

"I don't know, I don't think I would make it"

She smiled at me and said, "If all of us that you see in here made it you also can make it." We both kept a big conversation about college and I was asking her a lot of questions.

Since then I got very interested and my English teacher encouraged me to apply to California State University, Fresno. My older sisters gave me their support and talked to my dad about it because he wouldn't let Claudia and I come to college. He had the typical stereotype that when young females leave home to attend college all they do is mess around. Some of the teachers and the migrant counselor, Raul Gallegos, also talked to my mom and dad about our education, and my parents also supported us. My dad wasn't that sure yet of letting us go, but he didn't say anything.

I sent my application to CSUF and Raul my counselor used to bring me to my appointments. I was admitted to the university through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and University Migrant Services (UMS). Then in the summer I came to a program at CSUF that was required for me to attend called Summer Bridge. Thanks to that program I met a lot of staff members from the university, and I met friends from different high schools. I also got familiar with the campus and some of the buildings on campus during that program. During Summer Bridge we used to go to a lot of conferences that talked about the services the campus provided and the classes required to graduate and classes for your major.

During my first semester at the university I got involved in a club named Colmena Hispana Universitaria. We had a lot of activities in that club, for example the posada in December. Another event was Cinco de Mayo, we had mariachi and Mexican food booths. My second semester I also was involved in that club and I also started working at the Admissions Office.

When I was in high school I danced folckloric dances every Cinco de Mayo. I also danced in the open houses. I also enjoyed singing in the church choir. Every Wednesday and Friday I used to go to practice, and on Sunday we sang in mass. When I moved to Fresno, I couldn't go to practice the two days and I only went Fridays, well not every Friday because I had homework to do.

Coming to the University I learned to be responsible for my classes and other things like, being on time to my classes and attending all the meetings UMS provided.

My goals and plans for the future are to graduate from CSU Fresno and get a Masters in accounting and be a very sucessful accountant. The plans I have while I'm attending CSU Fresno are to encourage students to further their education. Let them know how important it is to get an education. I know this doesn't relate to my major, but I would like to achieve my plans of helping other students till I graduate.

Patricia Lopez

My name is Patricia Lopez I will be a first time freshman here at California State University, Fresno, this fall. I graduated from Washington Union High School, my home town being Easton. My family is from Guadalajara, Mexico. I plan to major in social work. My professional goal is to join the field of social work which is concerned with helping others. I will be the first generation in my family to attend collage.

In 1978 my family and I came to the United States in search of a better life. In coming here we had to adapt to a whole different life style. Our move to California brought lots of changes to our lives. I was only a child but I still have vivid memories that stand out in my mind. I can clearly remember how hard my parents had to work to support our family of seven. My parents have always held low paying jobs because of their lack of education. I remember them working long hours in the fields picking tomatos, strawberries, and grapes. One of the hardest problems we had was communication. We had a hard time communicating with others because Spanish is our native language,

I am proud to say that I have had 13 years of education in the United States. It was not easy, I went through a lot of hard times in school. I remember how afraid I was when I went to school for the very first time. I did not understand a word of English and I didn't know anybody. There were only a few students who knew how to speak Spanish, but everything seemed so different. I had a hard time communicating with others. I remember how everyone would look at me when I spoke. People didn't understand what I was trying to say because I spoke with an accent. Sometimes I would get so frustrated that I would run out of the room in tears. Sometimes, when my parents could not afford to pay a baby-sitter, I would end up missing a lot of school days so that I could stay home and baby-sit my younger brothers. My first two years in elementary school were the toughest, but slowly with the help of others I started learning English.

Many times while I was in school I felt out of place, I felt that I did not belong there. Especially because there were only a few Mexican students. I felt that I was not well liked by a lot of people, but soon that feeling changed. I started to make new friends and things started looking better. During my

elementary school years I took a lot of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. When I reached the seventh grade I no longer needed the ESL classes. That was a big change because I was placed in regular classes. English was all that was spoken in the regular classes. Even though I still had some difficulties, I managed to maintain good grades. At the age of thirteen I got my first part-time job at a small coffee shop. I worked almost every day after school. For being a thirteen-year-old, I was making good money. Most of the money went to help with the household needs of my family. I became very independent at a very young age. I did not need to ask my parents for money anymore. I paid for most of my personal and school needs. I think that my life experiences have made me become the responsible and independent person that I am today. My years in high school were not as tough as my years in elementary school. My grades as a freshman were not so great. I suppose that this was because I was too busy with my friends and work. It was not until my sophomore year that I noticed the importance of education. During this year my parents tried to find better jobs, but it was hard because they didn't have the education required for the jobs. It was also in this year that my parents decided to move to Fresno to find a better paying job. When we came toEaston, things looked so strange. In a way I felt that I had to start all over again. I had to make new friends and go to a new school. The climate here was so different from what I was used to, But I was doing better than ever in school. I guess it was because I did not have a lot of friends, so I would spend most of my time doing my schoolwork. My junior year at Washington Union was the best because I managed to get a 4.0 grade point average which was my best GPA ever. I became a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Foundation (CSF) during my junior and senior years. My years at Washington Union High will always remain vivid in my mind.

All through high school I dreamed about some day going to college, but I didn't think I had the chance to get in. My grades were good, but I did not have the money to go to college. It was not until the second semester of my senior year that I decided to attend college. I got a lot of institutional support from my migrant high school counselor. He and I started to gather information about colleges. I really wanted to come to CSU, Fresno, but I thought that I couldn't get in because I didn't have the money. Although my parents are very supportive, even though I am ninteen, they felt I was not ready to be on my own. They had a difficult time understanding college for their children and

themselves because they were not ready to let go. They considered money a big issue; they did not know if they would be able to work hard enough to support their family living at home and their education. I had a hard time explaining to my parents that I would soon be on my own. Up to now my parents are still having a hard time dealing with the fact that I am not a little girl anymore.

I got accepted to the University through the Equal Opportunity Program (EOP). EOP has given me a lot of information that I will need. I also applied to University Migrant Services (UMS). It was through this program that I was given the opportunity to work in the Language Immersion Program (LIP). At first I was scared to come to the University because I didn't know anyone, but through this program I met a lot of nice people and made some good and best friends such as Bonifacio Sanchez and Nora Aguirre. I have gotten to know the CSUF campus and I have gotten a lot of advice from students already attending the university. The thing that I like the most about UMS is that they will be there to help me when I need their individualistic help.

I have had some good university experiences through LIP Program. It has helped me understand college life with very interesting and new points of view.

I like to spend most of my free time with my friends. I also enjoy sewing and going out for long bike rides. I am very active within my church. I am part of the church choir and I help with the readings at every Sunday mass. I am also involved in the youth conferences with the church. My religion is a very important part of my life because I was raised believing that God should be priority in everyone's life.

Throughout my life experiences I have realized the importance of getting a good education. I have seen how hard my parents have worked to try to give us everything that they can. I understand that my future depends on what kind of education I get. My future goals are to major in social work and recieve my M.A. I hope to some day become part of the field of social work to help make this world a better place to live in. I have a lot of confidence in myself and I know I can succeed if I put my mind to it!

EVANGELINA MARTINEZ

Since I was a young child I've dreamed of being an architect. In my day dreams I would see myself designing and constructing projects. At the time these dreams seemed economically impossible. I knew my parents did not have the resources to send their five children to college. Realizing my economic situation I was resignated to spend the rest of my life working in the fields to help with the expenses at home. Little did I know that my self determination, and family support was going to superceed my economic conditions, enabling my dreams to be a little closer to reality. I am Evangelina Martinez currently a junior at California State University Fresno. I am the oldest and the first in my family to attend college.

We came to the United State of America from Mexico in 1979 approximately 13 years ago. We came to the United States in search of a better future. We have lived in the San Joaquin Valley in the area of Raisin City and Caruthers. At the time we were a family of six including my parents. W e all lived in one room, where we slept and ate. Due to the fact that it was an office made into our home, during the day we were to go outside and play. For a short time we worked for our landlord who owned an almond orchard. Our job was gathering almonds and hoeing the area around the trees. It was hard work, but I will never forget my first paycheck of $58 dollars. A couple of months later my youngest sister Alejandra was born making a family of seven, my father, mother, three sisters and one brother We did not live at the shop for along period of time. The growth of the family forced us to find a bigger place to live in. Fortunately, in the nearby town of Raisin City, a labor camp was soon going to be open for the season and we applied for admittance. We lived there until the end of the season. During our stay at the labor camp we worked picking grapes, while my dad worked moving irrigations pipes for our ex-landlord.

The season ended and we then moved to a mobile home and by this time my dad had found a steady job at a dairy. Soon after we moved to another mobile home. After years of renting we were asked to go live at a dairy, but our stay there was short and we were forced again to search for

a place to live. After ten years of moving around my parents decided to buy a house. The search was not easy because my parents only know Spanish and I did some interpreting, but it did not seem to be much help. I was not knowledgeable with filling out forms or familiar with terms used in banking. Interpreting became fustrating to me because my parents wanted to know everything. They did not understand that I could not translate everything and that upset them very much. Still it was expected that I take care of everything and so I did. What seemed a hassle to me paid off at the end. Weeks later our loan application was approved. A couple of months later we were handed the house keys. Finally after moving around, we now had a place we could call home. This was one of the happiest moments of our lives.

We are now settled in Caruthers, where my brother Jesus, sisters Elsa and Alejandra attend school. Shortly in the Fall of 1992 my sister Mary and I will be attending California State University-Fresno. By the Fall of 1993 hopefully my sister Elsa the third youngest will be attending an institution of higher education. Our academic accomplishments have made my parents very proud of us.

As soon as we were settled our parents immediately sent us to school. I thought since in Mexico I was going to be in the third grade that was where I would start, but here I was placed in the second grade. It was not simple because I did not know English so I was put in the second grade. My sister Mary was put in the first grade, Elsa was in kindergarten and Jesus was too young to attend school. We were admired by all our teachers because we happened to learn the language exceptionally quick. In elementary school teachers encouraged us to stay in school, but no one talked about college. They only stressed that going to high school was very important, but never told us what waited for us after high school.

As eighth graders we anxiously waited for June to arrive. We wanted to go to high school because it had so much to offer. We would get our own locker, would not be forced to eat cafeteria food. We had fun classes, funny teachers and not so funny teachers. There were also many activities and clubs. My freshman year I joined the V.I.C.A Club (Vocational Industrial Crafts of America). I paid my dues and never attended the meetings, but I showed up to take the picture for the yearbook. This was the only club I joined because I did not think that getting involved was

important. During the non active period of high school, my only concern was to get better grades than all my friends or classmates. This was my only goal in high school.

By my junior year most of my friends no longer attended school. Leaving me with a task of making new friends, which was difficult for me because I was quiet and shy. I did not make an effort of meeting new people since soon I would be graduating and probably never see them again. As my junior year was coming to an end I began to realize that getting involved was very important. Occasionally teachers mentioned that joining clubs and being active would look good on resumes and application for scholarships. What clubs could I join that would cater to my interests. I was not involved in any sports so I could not join Block "C". I was not interested in home economics so FHA-HERO was out of the question. That only left FFA, Math Club, Computer Club, from which to choose. At this point in my life I was tired of agriculture so FFA was out of the question. The only club left for me to join was the math and computer club. I decided to join the Math Club. I was not good in math, but it sounded challenging. I was not a very active member, but I was in a club. So, what did we do in the Math Club? Well did not solve mathematical problems like I thought we would, we ran a snack bar and our goal for the spring was to go to Magic Mountain. This was not that exciting and I needed excitement. Just when I was going to give up on clubs, Miss Haynes, my biology teacher was forming a team for Academic Decathlon. Only a few students were going to be on the team. I had excellent academic standing. I made honor roll all my high school years, but yet I did not think I would make the team. There were others who had higher grade point averages then I had. To my surprise, I was chosen to be on the team. We met every Tuesday morning before school. We were all responsible for a subject and we were to teach it to the others on the team. It so happened that I was the top History student and that was the subject I was going to teach the others. We did not win any of the competitions but, nonetheless I was happy having been part of a team. My senior year I was also involved with Journalism a class responsible for printing the school newspaper.

As my senior year was coming to midterm I did not know if I was going to college. I filled out the financial aid forms, but did not have a

college to attend yet. I did not know where to get the applications and who to talk to. The counselor at my high school never gave me information on how to get information about colleges. I only saw my counselor four times in all the years I was in high school. Other students were getting counseling and I was left out in the the dark without a clue. Yet I was determined to attend college, but I had missed the regular admission deadline at CSU Fresno where I was planning to attend. With the help of a friend I applied though the Equal Opportunity Program and was admitted to CSU Fresno. Ironically, I received my letter of admission before some of the other students who had applied through regular admissions.

My freshman year was fun. My classes were not difficult and had time to get involved with clubs and organizations, but I was not fully aware of what was out there for me. The spring semester I discovered University Migrant Services and was participating in "Colmena Hispana Universitaria." They were also very helpful when it came to selecting my classes. The counselors are always willing to listen to your concerns and problems. At times the counselors at UMS play the role of parents. They are always looking for our interests academically.

As with everything new and different there is a sense of insecurity and fear. My only fear in college was flunking out. In high school I did well, but to me it did not seem good enough for college. Soon I learned to have more confidence in me. I look back to that period and realize that my parents had more confidence in myself than I had in myself.

Now that I have survived two years here at Fresno State I have made many plans. I have chosen to major in Construction Management with an emphasis in Architecture. Upon completing my course work at Fresno State I plan to attend Cal-Poly and there receive my masters. Career wise there are many things I want to do. I want my name to be known as one of the best architects. I want my designs to stand out from the rest. I also want to give back to my community and help those who want to attend college. Not financially, but by informing them of their potential and the resources available to reach their goals.

Most of all I want to make my parents the proudest parents on earth. Achieving greatness is the only way I can ever pay them for their support, love and understanding through-out my life.

FELICIANO MATA

My name is Feliciano Mata, I was born in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. I am the ninth of eleven children, seven girls and four boys. I have lived in Parlier since my family came from Mexico in 1983. I graduated from Parlier High School in June, 1992. I was accepted to California State University, Fresno before I graduated from high school, but I didn't and still haven't thought of a major or a minor. Being the second in the family to attend college in the United States I think that I'm a good example to my younger brothers.

I come from a migrant family. My father has been migrating since the early 40's with his family. My grandparents came to the United States seeking for a better future for their kids since in Mexico they could hardly survive. Some years later, my dad went his own way and went back to Mexico and got married. Still, he made trips to the United States in search of work. In 1983 he decided to come back to the United States but this time with his family.

When we got here in the summer of 1983, the only job that we could find was field work. My dad had experience working in the fields so it was easy for him to find a job, although it was and still is paid minimum wage. Since that summer my dad hasn't had any job other than working in the fields. My oldest brother helped the family by working with my dad. He did go to school and graduated from high school but the need of money for the family made him work in the fields with my dad. I myself have also worked in the fields to help support my family. Sometimes all my brothers and I would go to pick grapes and gather all the money to help buy food for the family and our own clothes, since my dad didn't make enough to buy us what we wanted.

Since we are eleven in the family, it was hard for my dad to support the family. We were too many in the family so only half of us came to United States, the other half stayed in Mexico. My mom came with us but then had to go back to Mexico, do to the fact that she was suffering from an illness. We didn't have enough money to afford the treatment for her here in the United States. In 1989 she passed away in Mexico. Without our mother, things became very difficult, especially for my sister since she was now to

become the one to take care of us. I remember seeing her wake up early in the morning to cook lunch for our father and still making her lunch because she also had to go to work. Today I respect my sister and love her as I loved my mother when she was with us.

My parents never went to school. They grew up on a ranch were there were no schools nor teachers to teach them to read and write. Today my dad wants all of us to go to school and get an education because he doesn't want us to go through what he went and what he's going through now. He is very proud to see us go to college and continuing our education. All of the members in my family have gone to school or are currently attending. The second to the oldest of my brothers is the first in the family that is attending college here in the United States. I will be the second to attend college. We both plan to become good examples for our younger brothers who are attending high school.

Coming to California was an experience of which I thought was real hard because we had to learn a new language. The only language that we knew was Spanish and still the whole family speaks Spanish. Not only do we speak Spanish but we still keep our traditions. I personally speak more Spanish than English, I speak English only when I need it to communicate with other people.

I have been going to school here in the U.S. for eight years. When I first came here I went to fourth grade because I had finished third grade in Mexico. The first day of school I felt the worst loneliness I had never felt before. Later that year I made some friends and started to understand more what the teachers were saying. When I was in junior high I understood more English and had more friends. After I had finished seventh grade I went to Mexico. When I came back I started high school. In high school I got enrolled in the Migrant Club being that I was a migrant, that program helped me a lot, one way was that it found me a job in the community. The job consisted of helping the janitors in school. The program also helped me a lot in my applications for financial aid and other important papers. Today I'm in the University Migrant Services (UMS) program here at the university. In this program I have learned a lot of important things, like life in the dorms since we are staying in the dorms. Also, the supervisors have advised us a lot in several careers that CSUF offers and most important that we won't be alone. The best support I have had and still have is from my family, because they encouraged me to attend college. This support really helped me a lot

because I knew I had my family supporting my plans of attending college and getting a higher education.

Now that I have been admitted to CSUF, I plan to study real hard and major in something that will help me succeed in life or become somebody important that will be a good example for everyone. I still haven't declared my major but if things go right and I will become someone important in this world. I plan to go back to my community and help my people. Another goal that I want to accomplish is to represent the migrant workers and families in the valley and the world because I know what it is to be left out and ignored by society.

JUVENTINO MATA

My name is Juventino Mata, I have been studying at California State University, Fresno for two years and am now going into my third year. I come from Parlier, a small rural town which is located about twenty to twenty-five miles south of Fresno. My family moved from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, where I was born. It was there where I spent part of my childhood with all my friends and relatives. It was hard for me to say goodbye to them when I left to California. In Parlier, I started school in the sixth grade not knowing a single word of English. At first I thought that it was going to be very hard because of the language. Since in Parlier the majority of the population is of Mexican origin, it was obvious that the school had bilingual teachers which was a great help for me. The help that I got helped me pictured myself attending a college or a University, but I have learned through life that everything is possible if you get prepared for it, and that's how I got to be here at CSU, Fresno.

When I graduated from Parlier High I applied to different colleges such as San Diego City College, Fresno City College, CSUF, Texas A&I, and Devry Institute in Los Angeles. All of the colleges sent me information about their campus and were interested in me attending their institutions. I was even going to start that summer at Devry in Los Angeles, but then I decided to attend Summer Bridge at CSUF, where I made my decision to stay at California State University, Fresno.

Entering with a major in engineering and not knowing much about that field, I felt that it was going to be easy to make it. Last semester I learned that engineering was not my interest, so I changed my major to telecommunications and Spanish.

Now that I attend CSU, Fresno, I feel that I can contribute more to my family than if I were not attending college at all. Since we moved from Mexico to California, my Dad has always worked in the fields and has received minimum wage . When my family moved from Mexico, I was only eleven years old. During the summer I used to help my dad work in the fields. My mom had also come with us, but because of her illness she had to go back to Mexico for special treatment. She had high blood pressure and diabetes, and the doctors

here in the United State couldn't find a cure, but the main problem was the expense. The hospital expenses were too high for us to afford.

The size of my family is one of the typical Mexican families, which you see often. We are eleven in total, seven women and four men. When we came to Parlier, my older sisters stayed in Mexico. As for my family's educational history, it's not to different from most of the families that migrate to the US. My mom and dad never had the opportunity for an education, except for a few years of elementary. My dad had to drop out of school to help his family work in the fields. He always wanted to study to be a pilot, but the poverty in which his family lived was a big barrier at that time.

All of my older sisters have made something of their lives. The oldest one studied business administration, and is now working for a big company in Monterrey, Mexico. The second to the oldest, is a legal secretary, she's married, but she still works for a lawyer. The third to the oldest, is a nurse and works for the Mexican government. Two of my sisters who came with us have graduated from high school in Parlier, and have gone back to Mexico to study. One of them just graduated last year as a lawyer and the other one will be graduating on December of this year in the same subject. Since all of my older sisters have received their degrees, I believe that I have got the idea of going to a college for a higher education from them, even if they are in Mexico.

When I first started college it was not as hard as many people picture it. I had some friends attending CSUF, and they were the ones who advised me with what classes and what instructors to take. The rest of the job was left up for me. I was to make sure I did all of my homework and be responsible.

Being in college is not just attending classes. If you don't have any friends at all you'll feel like nothing. We, as humans, need someone to talk to. We need a very close person or a counselor and I found that in the University Migrant Services (UMS), and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). It was through these programs that I got to meet most of the friends that I know now.

University life is great. Everything you do here counts to you, and you feel good when you do something for the benefit of others. Being part of a club is a way to do things for your community and it also counts when you need reference letters. Last semester I was the vice-president of the club Colmena Hispana Universitaria. The objective of the club is to preserve the Hispanic culture and most important, the language. We sponsor events such as Posada,

which is one of the most important events of the club. I am also involved with the radio station of the University (KFSR 90.7). Working at the station makes me feel very good and that's one of the things that I like to do the most. One reason why I like to work at KFSR is because I enjoy communicating my ideas to others, In this job I fo that by playing the music that people like.

Thanks to my counselor in high school, and the financial aid that I am getting up to date,I have been able to attend this institution. Since last semester when I started working at the radio station, I have been considering getting my degree in Telecommunications along with a Spanish major. My professional goal is to work for one of the two major Spanish networks, Univision or Telemundo. With my profession, I plan to help the Hispanic by developing new programing for the whole family. This would be the new goal of my life, since I have achieved one already, (getting into college). I believe in myself and I have a lot of faith in God. I know that with God's help I will be able to make my dreams come true.

PATTY'S PROFILE

My name is Maria Patricia Munguia, but I go by a shortened version of my middle name, which is Patty. I graduated from Riverdale High School this past June. It is located in the small town of Riverdale, about forty minutes south of Fresno. My family came from Michoacan, Mexico. I plan to major in business and become an accountant. I will be the second person in my family to attend college.

My family came from Mexico in 1976. I was going to be two years old. We have always worked in the fields picking tomatoes, squash, grapes, tieing vines, and rolling trays. My dad works at a dairy and so now the only time that we work in the fields is during Christmas vacation. But he's always quitting his jobs because he doesn't like to put up with his bosses, so we have to go back to the fields. During the spring and summer months my mom, my older sister and I work at a packing house in Hanford. My brother works at a small grocery store located in the middle of town.

My younger sister and I had a babysitting job at school during the school year. We would take care and watch over children whose parents were enrolled in a project called New Hope. This is a program that holds night classes for people who want to learn to speak English or who want to get their residential documents in order. We were payed a minimum wage of four twenty-five an hour. I sometimes felt that it wasn't enough because at times we would have to care for ten kids at a time. Even though I wasn't very patient with them, I tried to do my job the best I could because I knew that I was helping my community.

I want to continue my education and pursue my career because I want to make my parents proud. They never had the chance to receive an education because they had to help their parents support their families. They weren't even able to complete their elementary education. My dad went to first grade and my mom made it to third.

I grew up speaking Spanish, but when I started school I learned the English language. I am proud to say that I am bilingual and that I am fluent in both languages. I feel that I didn't have any difficulties learning the English language because my older sister helped me out a lot. She is now a sophomore at California State University, Fresno and will be majoring in liberal studies.

I have been living in the United States for over sixteen years, so I began my education here in kindergarten. I was raised here, but with the moral values and traditions that my parents brought from Mexico. I enjoyed my elementary years because I had the chance to meet new people and make many friends. I was forced to leave some of my friends behind because we would move everytime my dad would quit his jobs. So we would move in search of a new job and a home. It was hard for me to leave all of my friends and teachers behind, but after a while I knew what to expect.

At the end of my eighth grade year, I moved from Hanford to Riverdale. When I started high school there I didn't know anybody except for my sister and my aunt. I had to take the profficiency tests so that I could be placed in the appropriate classes. I guess that I scored well because I got harder classes there than those that I was scheduled to take in Hanford. I received good grades in all of my classes except for math. My freshman year I took algebra and received a "C". If I would have stayed in Hanford, I would have taken pre-algebra. It's an easier class so I would have received a better grade. At the beginning I was disappointed because I had to take advanced classes, but now I'm glad that I did . I've heard that it's better to get a "C" in a college-prep class than an "A" in a lower class. I struggled a little, but I'm proud of myself because I was able to handle it.

Since I was young, my parents have encouraged me to continue my studies so I can receive the education that they weren't able to have. I know that I don't want to be working in the fields for the rest of my life. I would see that my sister and my friends were determined and ready for college. I feel that they had a great influence on me because I didn't want to be left out. I was encouraged by a lot of people, but I didn't get much help from any of them. My sister helped me out a little and my friends and I worked together in filling out all the applications. The school counselor gave me all the papers I needed, even though she wasn't too thrilled about giving them to me. She felt that I was dumb and couldn't handle college. She told me that all I would ever become in life was a secretary. I strongly disagree with her and I have decided that I'm going to prove her wrong.

When I was in high school I was in Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.) This club would hold volleyball and basketball tournaments. I attended them all four years . We also took a few trips, but we payed all of the expenses ourselves. In order to do this we had bake sales,

tamale sales, concessions, and even dances. There was hard work involved, but we also had a lot of fun. I have heard that M.E.Ch.A. is different here in college, so I'm not too sure whether I want to join or not. Plus, I have to see if I will be able to organize my time and make up a schedule.

I am going to attend C.S.U. Fresno in the fall to major in business and receive my masters degree. I want to become an accountant, but I'm not too sure about it. I want to help people because I'm not a selfish person. I think that I can help the community by showing them how to invest their money wisely. They can help the homeless and have recreation centers so that teenagers will have something to do instead of being outside roaming the streets. This will help the neighborhood stay clean and away from drugs. We can do a lot if we stay together and work with each other. I think that I can make a difference in people's lives!

Lupe Ochoa

My name is Guadalupe Ochoa, but I like to be called Lupe. I will be the first one from my family to go to college. I always thought that I would just graduate from high shchool and find a job. That way I would help my sister pay her tuition costs for college because I heard many people say that attending college is expensive. If I couldn't have the opportunity to further my education, I would would have liked my sister to have the opportunity. As a junior in high school I stared to receive information about college. I realized that I should go to college and give it a try. I was accepted to CSU Fresno and now I will be a freshman in the fall of 1992.

My parents immigrated to the United States because they wanted our family to have a bette life. Our family left Mexico so that they could stop working in the fields. Unfortunately, when we came here my parents had to work in the fields again because of their lack of education. Neither of my parents ever went go to school. My parents are very tired of working in the fields, especially now that they have seven children. It has gotten very hard for our parents to support us.

My parents brought me to the United States from Mexico at the age of six. Since then I have been living in Fresno. Although my parents and I have been here in the United States for many years we haven't forgotten the Mexican traditions or the religous traditions because we celebrate them together as a family.

My major is Liberal Studies. I want to be a bilingual elementary school teacher. My minor will be in Chicano Latin Studies. I feel proud of myself because I am the first generation to attend college. I feel that with me going to college my brothers and sisters will follow the same steps that I have taken.

I started kindergarten at the age of six. During my early elementary school years it was difficult for me because I didn't speak English ,but after sometime I began to communicate with my teachers. It was then that I found out how lucky I was to be able speak two languages. I Learned to be proud of my native language which is Spanish. At the age of fifteen I started high school. My high school years were great. I met new friends and teachers. There were more responsibilities than in elementary school, but I hung in there. I received good grades and was able to go to field trips. I learned to work with older students and with teachers. In high school during my junior and senior years, I joined Club Amistad and Free Out Doorsmen Club.

I was admitted to CSU Fresno through the Equal Opportunity Program. I also applied to the University Migrant Services (UMS) which helped me receive more information about CSU Fresno. This program will also help me once school starts in August. They will help me with tutoring, picking my classes and counseling. I really appreciate the support and time my parents, sisters and high school teachers have given me these years. It was their support that helped me make the right decision. During my first two years of high school I wasn' t given any information about college until I was a junior and decided to talk to my counselors. What also helped me learn more about the university was when I attended Migrant Youth Day. On this day we went to workshops. These classes were to help us get general information about the University.

This year I am in the Language Immersion Program (LIP) along with twenty-six other students. We are giving presentations to elementary, high school, and to incoming CSU Fresno students. The purpose is to motivate students to continue their education. I hope that this program will continue so other students can experience the good feeling of encouraging students to make their dreams come true. This is why my professional goal is to become a elementary school teacher and educate children so they can become the best they can be. I feel this is a great way to help the community. I know that with the support of my family I will do my best in college and the years to come.

NORMA OLGUIN

My name is Norma Olguin, I will be an incoming freshmen at Fresno State University. I thought that attending college was not going to be for me. I pictured myself as a person who had just graduated from Riverdale High School, and who went straight to work in the hot steamy fields of Five Points where I live. I believed that I wasn't going to get a chance of receiving a higher education, but as of now I know that dreams can come true as long as you believe in yourself.

I have decided to major in Computer Science and recieve my Bachelor's of Arts. I have not decided what my minor will be, but I would like to choose one that will benefit me in the future.

Like many Hispanics, I believe that the purpose for living in the United States is to progress and get a better life. But sometimes life here is a struggle trying to fit in. If you don't speak English it is difficult especially if Spanish was your first language to speak which was mine.

These past seventeen years my father has been struggling working as a farm laborer. He has spent most of his life working in the fields trying to support a family of nine including himself. He tries attending night classes to improve his English and writing skills along with my mother who is a housewife. Their education in Mexico did not help them very much because their highest grade was they attended was fourth grade. They didn't have the opportunity to get an education. Since they couldn't continue their education they have always encouraged my brothers and myself to attend college and get a good education here in the U.S.

I studied in the United States since my kindergarten year until I finished my fourth grade in Westside Elementary School in the Five Points area. I then moved to Mexico in nineteen eighty four and went to live in Saltillo, Coahuila I lived there a year but then I moved to Rosarito, Baja California, and lived there until nineteen eighty eight. There, I finished my elementary school and I continued my high school years in Mexico. In nineteen eighty eight I returned to Five Points. After arriving from Mexico I continued my

high school years at Riverdale High School. There I studied my four years and graduated. During my senior year I wasn't sure that I wanted to attend college, I was just applying for colleges because my parents expected me to attend, and because my friends were applying to colleges. As the end of the year came closer and some of the colleges that I applied to accepted me, I knew that I could do it to. I became more interested in finding out information about certain colleges.

In my high school I didn't receive much help from the counselors. They usually helped the students who they liked or the students that used to kiss up to them. At the beginning this really bothered me because there was a lot of discrimination when it came to helping Mexicans. They didn't even care to see a student fail a class. This didn't hold me back. After a while, I knew that if I couldn't count on my counselors that was going to do the best by myself.

I was admitted to California State University, Fresno through Equal Opportunity Program (E.O.P.) because I didn't have all the required classes that I needed. I also was admitted to University Migrant Services (U.M.S.) which is a program for migrant students. This program provides a lot of services that will benefit me during my years here at the university. There are a lot of services here at C.S.U.F, but the most important ones to me I already mentioned. Another thing that will help me during my stay here is Financial Aid, which I have applied to and will be receiving a certain amount when it is given out.

Lately and during Language Immersion Program I have had the support of both of my parents. They tell me that I should try as hard as I can and never give up. I also have the support of my two older sisters and my older brother. They are attending Fresno City and one of my sisters is attending West Hills in Coalinga.

During my high school years I participated in M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) and B.S.U (Black Student Union) club. These clubs were mainly to communicate and get to meet new people in the Fresno County area.

My experience in the Language Immersion Program (L.I.P) has been a good way to get to know people here at the university. It has taught me how to get along with people of different ages and of course, different points of view. I got better acquainted with the library, campus , and different departments. I also got acquainted with the computers. Most of all it has taught me to get along with my supervisors here at the program.

I plan to major in Computer Science I believe that a career in computers will help me out a lot in the future. How ? It will benefit me in getting a stable job, but also it will make me able to help out my family. I would like to get a B.A. and then get my M.A. later in the future.

As an incoming freshmen student here at Fresno State I hope that I can reach all my goals during the years to come. I know that I'm going to remember this great experience that I have had with all the students in L.I.P. program. Also, the support from the supervisors I'm very thankful for and I know that I won't ever forget it.

NORMA PEREZ

Strong, intelligent, determined, and loving. This is me now but only a few years ago I used to be fragile and weak. I had no self-esteem and I saw no future in my life much less a college education. I often wondered why I was born and why I was being forced to live in this world.

I was born on December 20th 1973 in Leon Guanajuato and was given the name of Maria Norma Perez. I lived in a small ranch called Xoconoxtle. I was a sick child, born with asthma. As I was growing up, I was always fighting death. It was a constant struggle. When I was two years old my family and I moved to Planada California which is a government camp located north of Fresno.We lived there for seven years during the harvest season. Every six months we would gather up our stuff and move back to Mexico until the harvest season would come up again. We then moved to Arvin California because my family wanted to settle down. Arvin is a rural agricultural city west of Bakersfield. Most of the people living in Arvin are farmworkers like my parents.

My parents have always worked in the grapevines. This is because they only got through the sixth grade in their education while living in Mexico. The Mexican government only pays for your education until you reach the sixth grade. If you wanted to continue your education, you have to pay for your tuition, and my grandparents were unable to provide the money and the transportation. Besides, my father had to help plow the fields in order to get some money for his family. My mother had to help my grandmother around the house since she was the oldest of 12 children. We stopped going to Mexico every six months because my parents realized we were getting behind in our education and how important it was. We are a family of seven, which consists of my father 42, my mother 40, an older sister Ana 19, two younger sisters, Mariza 13, Elizabeth 7 and a younger brother Lorenzo 5. My older sister and I started working in the fields during summer and winter breaks at the age of 11 and have been doing it since then. This further helped me realize how hard life would be working in the fields and that the only way to survive would be a college education.

My education started at Arvin's Sierra Vista Elementary in the second grade. I was a very quiet and shy girl, and kept to myself. I wouldn't talk to anyone unless they approached me first, and even then I was terrified to speak because I was very insecure. I continued my education there until the eighth grade then I moved on to Arvin High School. Close to seven years had passed, but I was still that same fragile and insecure little girl. During my first three years in high school I had a lot of friends, but I still didn't feel right. I felt something was missing from my life. During my senior year, I realized what that had been because it was that year that I joined the Mecha club for which I was the vice president. I realized that I had wasted so many years of going to school. How? In the sense that I went to school, sat in the classroom, listened, did my work and went home. At home, I would cook, clean, do my homework, prepared lunch for work and then go to bed. I never voiced my opinion, I never asked questions, or participated in any school activities I just did what I was told to do. During my senior year I also got involved with the Spanish, French, and Ecology club. I started doing a lot of community work. But mainly, I started being the person I liked to be, a new Norma was born with a totally new and different personality. I loved helping people, doing different types of activities and having a good time. What I liked most was that now I would expressed myself with much more freedom because I was not afraid of what others would think. It was then that I was eager to continue my education. I knew that I would go on to college the only reason being that my older sister had done so, therefore I had to. Yet before my senior year was over I knew I wanted to go because now I knew I could accomplish anything I put my mind to. I was no longer scared to voice my opinion and I wasn't scared to ask questions. It seemed that all I needed was a little push from someone that really cared in order for me to break the shell that was keeping me from finding myself. That person was Mr. Gonzalez, I thank him so much for taking the time to listen and motivate me to continue on with my education.

I decided to go to California State University of Fresno because I liked the environment and the people. I had a great experience with Summer Bridge, I found that there were people that really cared. I had the opportunity of meeting Raul Moreno and Ruben Fuentes and all the staff at the UMS (University Migrant Services)

office. There I received so much motivation and encouragement. They also demostrated that they would be there for any help I might need. I really liked that from them because they were honest and sincere in what they said. During my first year I decided to join three organizations in CSUF where I was on the board of two. I joined Colmena Universitaria (communicator) and Migrant Student Alliance (MSA, Sub-Activity Coordinator-Communicator). I am also an active member of Teatro TORTILLA (Teatro Of Raza Towards Involvement in Local Latino Awareness). All of these organizations help the community by providing information to the students and the people about education. MSA organized food drives for the poor during the freeze, we would go to visit high schools to talk to students and motivate them into continuing their education, show them that they could do it too. Colmena would invite different speakers to speak to the students and anybody who was interested in what is going on with our community. We also sponsor and organized a Posada which is a big celebration done here at the University. Posada is a Mexican celebration that celebrates the birth of Christ. In Teatro TORTILLA we perform different types of plays at high schools, the main point in our plays are what is happening in our community in regards to education, drugs, and gangs. What we try to do is to motivate kids to continue their education and stay out of trouble. I am happy and proud to say that with all the organizations that I was actively involved and taking 18 units both semesters I was able to maintain a 3.2 GPA . I am also happy to say that my first year at CSUF was great because I awarded a full package from Financial Aid so therefore I didn't have to worry about money. Yet I had the opportunity to grow as a person, become independent and make a lot of friends.

I will start my second year at California State University of Fresno in 1992. The only difference this time is that instead of going in undeclared I will go into counseling. I plan to get my major in ESL (English as Second Language) professor at a high school level and a minor in CLS (Chicano & Latin American Studies). Yet my dream and my objective is to get my doctorate in counseling. I do not know if it will only be helping students or if I will extend it to social work. What I do know is that I want to help students continue their education. I want to motivate them and show them that there are real people out there that really care. I believe that a person is

bad not because they want to but because of the life they have lived. I believe that we all can make a big difference in a children's lives if we show them that we really care because all they need is a little push just like I did. This is why my feelings towards the LIP program are very positive. Not only because I love working with outreach but because the program really helps. There are people out there that need to see that we are people like them. That we are also low income and have worked in the fields most of our lives like they have. Yet we can, and we have to continue our education to have a better future for ourselves and our family. I believe the program has been a great success and I hope that It continues for many years.

Sandra V. Perez

My name is Sandra Veronica Perez and I'm going to be a freshmen in college. I live in a little town called Five Points but I graduated from Riverdale Joint Union High School, which is about 15 minutes away from the town of Five Points. My family and I originated from Aguascalientes, Mexico. I plan to major in business. My professional goal is to become an accountant. I will also be the fourth generation to attend college from my family.

My father came to the United States in 1974. He came to Five Points and started working in the fields. In 1983 my mom, brother, sister, and I soon followed. My mom started working in the fields two years after we arrived here. Counting my mom and dad there is a total of ten in my family. There are five females and three males. All of my brothers and sisters have had some form of education. Some of them only went to elementary, others to high school, and even some of us to college. Out of eight children my mom was proud to see that four of us made it to college. One of my brothers has already graduated as a civil engineer. My parents went to elementary school but did not finished.

I have been living in the United States for nine years. I still remember my first day of school the classroom was filled with students speaking a strange language. I did not know how to speak English and it was frustrating to hear them speak. That same day I made friends but they would mix their English with their Spanish. They would speak what we call spanglish, I could not understand everything they would say. It took me about a year to finally understand and speak the language. When I got to high school all my classes were general except for math. Math was the only class where I was doing well in high school. In all my other classes I was barely passing. I would do just enough work so I would not flunk. Until one day I took a very simple test and the lady that gave it to me said that I did not pass. They were going to drop me to ESL classes. I went to talk to the lady and she said there was nothing she could do. She said I had to go and talk to Holly Bundy. I did not know who she was but I went to her office but, she was not there. I went to look for her a few times until she finally called me in. We talked and she made me take the test again. Not only did she

help me get back to my regular classes, she also moved me up to college prep classes. The classes were more difficult and I knew that the counselor had put me on probation because he thought that I was not going to make it. I put a lot of effort into my work because, I wanted to prove him wrong. I graduated from high school with a record of college prep classes all four years.

My parents have always encouraged me to go to school. My parents do not understand very well how the school system works. That does not mean that I could get bad grades because, my brother is always checking on my grades. He gets me in to trouble if he sees that I am getting bad grades and knows that I could do better. My mom tells me she wants me to go to college so I can have a better life than what she has had. She does not want to see me working in the fields.

I heard about college from my brother and sister, but I never received any information about the colleges from anyone. I had to go and find out about college on my own. At my school most of us did not know much about college. We all had to be alert to find out what was going on. We all helped each other. Whenever one of us heard about a scholarship or an important application we would tell each other. That is how I found out information about college.

At this time I do not know what clubs I want to join. Since this is going to be my first semester, I think it would be best for me to first find out how difficult college is going to be. If I think I can handle other I will get involved in other activities the following semester.

In high school I was involved in a few extracurricular activities. I was in the M.E.Ch.A Club, in Student Council, and other clubs. When I am at home in my free time I like to play different types of games. The only sport I refuse to play is softball. I always seem to have a hard time hitting the ball. I also like to watch T.V. or listen to the radio.

I consider myself lucky because I got a chance to experience college life. Thanks to this program I have learned about the different programs CSUF has to offer. I got a chance to find out if I wanted to live on campus in a dorm or off campus in an apartment. I really do not like the dorms so I decided to live in an apartment.

My major is going to be business to become an accountant. I plan to get my Master's degree in that area. I want to be an accountant because I think that is going to be something that will interest me. But as of right now I am

not really concerned with my major because if I do not like this major I can always change my mind. My goals are to try and assist my community with whatever I can. I plan to think of different ways on how the community can invest their money. A good way would be to invest on housing for the homeless, in recreational areas for the children, or by trying different ways to clean up the community. I want the people to work together in order for us to make any thing we do a success.

Jose Antonio Ramirez

My name is Jose Antonio Ramirez and I have attended California State University (CSUF) for the past three years. Fresno is my hometown and its been my home for sixteen years. My birthplace is in Coalcoman, Michoacan, Mexico and it is where my family originally came from. I came to the United States when I was four years old. I attended Monroe Elementary at the age of four and pursued my education further when I went to Washington Union High. Here I find myself sixteen years later pursuing my dream of getting an architectural degree and a minor in Mathematics and Chicano Latino Studies.

My professional goal is to serve my community in any way I can and live the best life possible. I'm the first in my family to come to the U.S. and the first to attend a four year institution. At the age of four I immigrated to the U.S. with my mom and landed in Watsonville, California. My sister Maribel was born in Watsonville in the six months that we were living there. We moved to Fresno and have lived here ever since. I presently have three brothers and four sisters of which six where born in Fresno County. They are all going to their respective schools. My step dad is a farm labor contractor and is followed by my mom who is a licensed bus driver. My mom and dad didn't have any educational history. They never attended elementary or any other form of educational schools. Our native language is Spanish and is spoken at home at all times. I think practicing your native language is the most important element in preserving one's culture. Speaking more that one language is not only great, but a gift that everyone can obtain. My sister Maribel who is nineteen is the second in my family to attend college and she's following my footsteps. I hope that the rest of my family do the same and I will do my best to make it possible for them.

My educational background goes back to Monroe Elementary where I attended Kindergarten at the age of four and graduated at the age of thirteen. Elementary was so much fun because they provided us with great field trips. I can remember going to Edward's Air Force Base in Bakersfield, California to see the Space Shuttle land. What I liked the most about this small school was the food. Miss Helene our cook was the best because the food was excellant. The meal was different everyday and that's what made our cook special.

High school was a new and exciting experience to me. There were more bodies and more faces than what I saw at my elementary. It was

different because we had more classes and went home later in the afternoon. I found myself in a different atmosphere with more people and more teachers. I enjoyed every school day because I participated in wrestling, weight-lifting, and cross-country running, that kept me in shape. I made lots of friends who supported me at all times and enjoyed their company. Teachers that cared for me lead the way for my success. My mom was the major factor in my accomplishment because I had her 100% help at all times. She's the foundation to my education and that's why I'm in college. My college information has come from CSUF counselors and from my own effort. I did a lot of asking and spent my time researching new information.

When I made my way in college I got involved in clubs and campus activities to pick up any new information. The information I learned has helped me pave my way through college. University Migrant Services (UMS) is one program that has helped me with my personal needs.

My working experience with Equal Opportunity Program (EOP) has helped me to understand the university better. I worked for this program a full semester and I'm still involved with the program. Another program where much of what I learned is being applied is in the University Outreach Services. This program provides the community with many services dealing with the university. I will serve as an intern for my former high school to help students interested in attending the university. I will help with any information dealing with forms, applications, classes and any other information. I hope I can help everyone so that I can make a difference in there life. I will do my job to the best of my ability to benefit everyone.

Over the past three years I have joined many clubs, but the most recent one's have been Students in Construction (S.I.C.) and Mex-Tec. I participated in all their activities and projects that they planed throughout the year. The clubs had fundraisers, career days and special presentations. I have also volunteered my time to help the community, by serving food in homeless shelters like the Povorelo House. My goals are to graduate from California State University Fresno and pursue a Ph.d. in Architecture. I also want my own Paleteria Michoacana and Mexican Restaurant. The most important goal on my list is to make it possible for my brothers and sisters to attend college. I want them to have the doors open so that college can be fun and have a great learning experience.

Cecilia Rubalcava

My name is Cecilia Rubalcava and I am an incoming student to a prestigious university. I will be attending California State University, Fresno this fall. I am originally from Los Angeles but I have lived in Parlier since I was two years old. I am of Mexican decent, my dad was born in Aguas Calientes and my mom was born in Jalisco, Mexico. I presently have two brothers. My brother, Julio is one year older than me, my other brother Israel (also known as Bizz) is one year younger than me. Unfortunately, I don't have any sisters, but my mom has always taken the place of the sister I never had. My parents mean the world to me. Without their love and support, who knows where I would be. They didn't have the opportunity to receive a higher education. When we were growing up they would take us to the fields so we could see what it would be like if we didn't attend college. Slowly we realized that college was very important and that if our parents had had the opportunities we have, they too would have loved to have a higher education.

My story begins way back with my elementary school years. My parents had to work extremely hard with me because I was a very quiet little girl. I had trouble getting along with the other children. With my parents' love and care they showed me how to open up to people. I learned that you have to be yourself so people will like you for who you are, not for who you want to be. Soon I went to school more often and enjoyed it more, but I had a problem while I was growing up that still kept me back. As soon as I entered Jr. High, I began to notice myself more. I realized I didn't like myself very much. The cause of this was my physical appearance. I thought that I was very skinny and would never gain weight. Slowly this began to take over my life. I wasn't a good student, I was an unhappy person and worst of all I couldn't love anyone else until I could learn to love myself.

I soon started my high school years and that feeling of hate toward myself was still there. Now things became more difficult because I was older and at that time I didn't realize that what you do in high school would determine where you would be in five years. My first two years were terrible, I was never in class, I had a low grade point average and I was back where I was when I was in elementary, a very quiet girl that hardly had friends.

Something good did happen to me my freshman year though. I met a person that changed my life completely; my boyfriend. The truth is my boyfriend taught me how to love myself and showed me how important my education was. Since he had graduated that year he helped me a lot on the incoming years that were left of high school. We got together my sophomore year and that year he convinced me to try out for cheerleading for my junior year. So I did and I made it into the squad. I was a cheerleader and co-captain of the squad during my senior year. I was also in the marching band for three years in which I played the flute. During my junior year I was the vice-president of the marching band. I could say it was a great experience to be in the band because we had the chance to create our own music and perform for our community.

I was convinced that the more I was involved the more confident I got and the more friends I made. During these two years I got to know more people and more people knew who I was. I was nominated for more things and I was invited to more places. I was informed about what was going on at school, and the best part was, I began getting better grades. The reason I received better grades was because I loved school. I had reasons to go and my boyfriend was one of those reasons. He helped me all the way through. I changed for him because he was depending on me. He taught me so much that I didn't want to disappoint him. Towards the end of my senior year I began doing it not only for him, but for my family and most important for myself. That feeling of disgust toward my appearance slowly began to disappear. Until this day I still think about it but it is not the first priority in my life. I have learned to accept myself for who I am.

I will be the first one in my family to attend college. I am very happy to be able to try to make my parents dream come true of one of us attending college. My parents never learned how to speak well english and were never very well educated but they would always try to help us. When it got to the point where I had to fill out all of my papers for college and financial aid they couldn't help. In the beginning I was lost, one day my migrant counselor (Mr. Jimenez) came looking for me. I had never seen this man in my four years of high school but when I did I thought he was a god because he kept me informed about everything. Thanks to him I'm in the Language Immersion Program. This program has been a great experience. It showed me the campus, library skills and helped me pick my classes. Not only did he help all the migrant students but he also supported us as well. He took over the job of the

regular counselors, who were too busy with the 'smart' people. What they don't know is that everyone is smart, they just need to find it within themselves.

As I have said previously, I will be attending California State University, Fresno this fall. It gives me great pleasure to be able to say that, because as a sophomore in high school I never thought I would apply for college and more the less be accepted. I plan to major in Electrical Engineering since I have always been fascinated with math. With my degree in Engineering I plan to work in Mexico. Since I am bilingual and love Mexico I would like to benefit my people with what I have learned. I also plan to get married and have children but this will come towards the end of my education or after. Because education is very important, it is something that will always be with you.

Christina Salcedo

My parents came to this country in search of a better life. They never imagined the barriers that they along with their children, would encounter. It is because of the hardships that my parents faced that I have decided to educate myself and my community. I am a sophomore, majoring in Chicano/Latino Studies, in which I hope to attain a doctorate. Due to economic reasons my parents were unable to finish school. Since they were never given the opportunity to further themselves they always encouraged us to go on in our studies. This makes my brothers, sister and I the first generation in our family to go on to college. I grew up in the small town of Three Rocks. Its a town that hardly anyone has ever heard of. The only thing that they have heard is that there are more dogs than people in the town. In this small town I saw many of my friends end up married and having families at a very early age. I can hardly recall any of my friends fulfilling any of their dreams. Their situation has served to motivate me even more.

Both my parents were born in rural towns in Durango. My father was born and spent the first 14 years of his life in Indé, Durango. At 14 him and his family were forced to leave their small town and head for Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. My mother was born in San Luis, Durango. Her family left for Juarez when she was 12 years old.

When my parents first arrived to California they arrived looking for a job and a place to live. My father was able to find work in the canneries of northern California. After a year in northern

California work was scarce and they migrated to central California. It was here in the Central San Joaquin Valley that my father has toiled under the sun for over 28 years. My father believed that a family should be large. It is because of this that we are a family of nine. I am the youngest of seven children, five boys and two girls. In my house we mostly speak Spanish. Spanish has and always will be my first language. I feel that it is very important to retain our culture, one way of doing this is by speaking Spanish. By being bilingual you are also bicultural, you are open to an entirely new and different world. I can listen to a whole array of music and traditions. As of now, my sister and I are the only ones in my family that are attending college. An older brother of mine, Rafael, graduated in 1990 from Fresno State. He plans to return to school to receive his M.A. (Masters) in Industrial Technology. Three of my other brothers began to attend college (one came to CSUF, the others to Kings River CC), none finished their studies. José, who came to CSUF, dropped out and joined the Marines. He has been in the service for over 6 years. Ruben and Ricardo, who attended Kings River, are now mechanics.

I have spent most of my life in the classroom. I now realize that the education system caters to only a few individuals. I was not one of those fortunate individuals. I was rarely given special attention in areas I had problems in, like math. As I entered high school I was unprepared. Had it not been for my older sister, I would be taking classes that would only prepare me for marriage and motherhood (both are things that I hope to accomplish *after* I finish school). I took college prep classes throughout my four years in high school. I was also in the first Advanced Placement American

History class at my high school. I passed the A.P. test along with four other classmates. That was an accomplishment that helped me prove to doubtful teachers that I was capable of furthering myself.

In coming to the University I have fulfilled many of my goals. I have had a lot of support from both my family and people at the University. Programs such as Educational Opportunity Program (E.O.P). and University Migrant Services (U.M.S). have been instrumental in my success at the University. Both programs have guided me and been there for me in my time of need. This past year has been the most difficult in my life. My family has had to deal with my mother's diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis. This illness has impaired my mother to the point that my sister and I have had to take care of her and go to school. This has served as a learning experience for me. I have learned to value my mother for the great courage she has and all that she has done for my family and I.

Although I had to care for my mother and attend school I still made time for extracurricular activities. I became a member of M.E.Ch.A (Movimento Estudinantil Chicano de Aztlán). M.E.Ch.A is a political organization, our main focus is betterment for Raza. Betterment in the labor camps, in the barrio, and in the classroom. We strive for equal rights for Mexicanos/Chicanos in Aztlán. I served as secretary on the Chicano Youth Conference committee. The CYC committee puts together and hosts an annual conference targeted at high school students. The conference, held in January, usually brings in from 1,500 to 1,800 students. My ties with M.E.Ch.A have lead me to work with different organizations throughout the community. I have been a volunteer at the Chicano

Youth Center that is in downtown Fresno. As a volunteer I have worked with kids that need role models to motivate them to better themselves. I have also worked with MAPA (Mexican American Political Association). This passed year M.A.P.A was an instrumental force behind the Dinuba school boycotts. I participated by demonstrating and marching for weeks. I think that it is important to reach out to our youth, to guide and educate them.

I have seen the suffering of my people in many different areas, it is because of this that I want to dedicate my life to helping my community. I think that there is no point to getting educated if you don't put your education to use. Many people get their education and forget where they came from. I hope that I don't become one of them. I can't imagine myself in a big expensive house, living comfortably knowing that outside my door my gente are being exploited and overworked.

Bonifacio Sanchez

My name is Bonifacio Sanchez and I am going to begin my sophomore year in college here at California State University of Fresno this Fall. I was born in Bakersfield and was raised in McFarland prior to the last four years that I have lived in Fresno. My parents, Bonifacio and Ana Maria Sanchez, were born and raised in Mexico. I am proud to say that I am the oldest of a brother and two sisters and the first to graduate from high school and attend a University of higher education. At Fresno State I am majoring in Liberal Studies with a bilingual emphasis. I am also planning to accompany that with Science as a double major. From this I can say that my professional goal is to become a bilingual elementary teacher.

In speaking of my family background, as far as immigration history is concerned, it is with great pride that I say that my great grandfather and his family came to Los Angeles, California from Zacatecas, Mexico in the mid- 1920's. During this time while they were in the United States, my grandmother was born an American Citizen. Then in the 1930's my great grandfather and his family went back to Mexico due to the Great Depression of the 30's. Eventually my grandmother grew up and married my grandfather in Mexico. From this marriage, my father was born. Later in life my father married my mother in 1972 and they

moved to McFarland, California where they formed a family of six including my parents themselves.

Soon after reaching McFarland my parents began working in farm labor, such as picking oranges, peaches, and grapes. Both my parents held this occupation until I reached the age of ten. At this time my father had eventually been promoted to foreman of a farm labor working crew. My mother, though, maintained her occupational status. When I reached the age of fourteen, my parents decided to move to Fresno. In Fresno my parents had to start at the bottom of the farm labor work again. They picked oranges and grapes for about three years. After those first three years my father began to work for Champion Auto Parts where he is now presently working. As for my mother, she now dedicates her full time to our family.

My family's educational history is what you can call history because they never had a chance to have an education, much less a good one. My father dropped out of school when he was in the sixth grade so that he could help his parents support the many siblings that he had. Due to this reason, my father never had a chance to experience education as it is meant. He never had the chance to strive for his childhood dream; that is if his situation allowed him a dream. My mother, on similar grounds, did not achieve a higher education either. My mother dropped out of school when she was in the third grade. She also dropped out to help her parents with her siblings, being that she was the oldest. If she didn't go out and help her parents work for their living, she would stay home and take care of her younger brothers and sisters

and assume a mothering role along with all of its adult responsibilities. For this reason, both my father and mother were kept from achieving a higher education and having the opportunity to advance highly in life.

My educational experience, dating back from elementary to my freshman year in college, has been exactly that, an experience. Beginning with elementary, I can remember that I had an interesting experience. After all, being that Spanish was my first language, elementary education in English was very foreign to me. It took me about a year before I could communicate completely with my teachers, but once I did it became a stepping ladder from that point on which has gotten me to where I am today.

Having learned the fundamental elementary skills required, I soon found myself in junior high and then in high school. In high school I found myself thinking about college very often. I knew that it was my short-term goal to attend an institution of higher education, I just didn't know how I was going to do it, but the determination was there. I soon became involved in clubs such as M.E.Ch.A., M.E.S.A., Project Alpha, and Teachers of Tomorrow. By the time I became a senior and was ready to graduate, I knew I had achieved my short-term goal of attending an institution of higher education because I would be attending California State University, Fresno as an incoming freshman that coming Fall.

Of course, I can't overlook the components that helped make it possible. In the first place, I owe my determination to my parents and family who supported and stood behind me one hundred percent. They were the ones who kept my motivation

alive. Another very important factor that helped make my goal possible was the institutional aid I received from the University itself. It provided me with the financial help that without I certainly would have not been able to take advantage of what the University has to offer me. It also provided me with additional help through special programs such as individual tutoring through the educational opportunity program (EOP). I recognize and am very thankful for all the support that has helped me reach the point where I stand now.

Soon after starting off great with my freshman year at Fresno State, I became involved in some clubs and organizations. One particular organization that I became involved with that really helped me out through the year was the Campus Crusaders for Christ. Its membership is extended to anyone who is a Christian. This really gave me a lot of spiritual support in continuing with my education and doing the best I could. Apart from this I was also involved in a Youth group at Our Lady of Perpetual Help church. These affiliations helped and kept me active throughout my freshman year.

Overall, I feel that my freshman year at Fresno State has provided me with a unique university experience. Although it has only been my first year here at Fresno State, I am starting to view the world differently. I have already gained a different perspective in the way I look at things. The people I have met on campus have proven to be very interesting. All of them come from a wide variety of ages and backgrounds, with their own beliefs, and values and with a

certain purpose. The classes I have taken have shown me to be more responsible and attentive just like the clubs and organizations I have committed to and have gotten involved with have given me the sense of direction I plan to follow. Evaluating it all, Fresno State has provided me with a unique experience that will further enhance my motivation for a higher education.

Having the opportunity at hand to enhance myself better as a person through higher education, I plan to obtain a teaching credential in Liberal Studies with a bilingual emphasis. I feel that in this way I can assist my community by motivating tomorrow's people to persue their dreams and goals. In choosing to have a bilingual emphasis, I believe that I can serve my people and give them the advantage that will help them succeed, and hope that some day they to can remember and serve our community also!

Gilbert Sanchez

My name is Gilbert Sanchez and I will be attending California State University Fresno as a freshman in the fall of '1992'. My parents were born in Mexico. They came to the United States to have a better life style. I was born in Fresno, California in 1974. My hometown is Mendota. I have been living there since I was born. It's a very peaceful town. The population is about 8,000 people, 80% Mexican. About 70% of the people work in the fields. There are hard working people in this town.

I really haven't thought about my minor, but, I plan to major in Criminology. I know I want to be a California Highway Patrol (CHP) when I graduate from CSU Fresno. When I say I know I want to be a Highway Patrol I mean that I know I'm going to be a California Highway Patrol (CHP). When you have a positive attitude you can do anything. And if you set your mind on something you want, you know you can do it. That's why I say I know. When I set my mind on something, I know I can do it. That's how much confidence I have in myself.

I'll be the third in my family to go to college, but I'll be the first in my family to go to California State University Fresno. I'm really proud to be the first one to go to CSU Fresno.

My father's name is Felipe S. Sanchez. When he came to the United States, he came under the name of Gilbert Sanchez, he had somebody else's greencard. Some of his friends still call him Gilbert and other's call him Felipe. Since I was the first boy born they decided to name me Gilbert. My mother also came to the United States without a greencard. My parents were married here in the United States, they had all their paper's organized.

My father dropped out of school in Mexico when he was in 3rd grade. My mother dropped out of school in Mendota when she was in 8th grade. That's why they don't have a good education. That's also why they're working in the fields. Since my parents moved to the United States they've been working in the fields and even now they continue to work in the fields. Since then they have bought two melon trucks and one diesel. They work with those trucks for about three to four months each year. That helps us out a lot.

In my family I have four sisters, two brothers and one stepbrother. I have two older sisters, a seventeen year old sister, a fifteen year old brother, an eleven year old brother and a nine year old sister and last but not least my twenty-five year old brother. He recently got married on the 4th of July. His birthday was on the same day. Both of my older sisters have attended a community college. One is still attending Fresno City, but as I said, I'll be the first one to attend CSU Fresno.

When my brothers, sisters and I talk to my parents, we speak to them in Spanish. When we speak to each other, we speak in English. My parents get mad when we speak in English at home. They rather have us speak Spanish. They want us to speak Spanish well, so we can speak it and understand it as well as we speak and understand English.

I have been in school since I was in kindergarten. I attended Washington and McCabe Elementary School in Mendota. During my first year in Tranquillity High School I really didn't care about education. I was an average student.

I have played in the basesball, football, and the tennis team. Iam very active at home and at school. At home I always play baseball, football, basketball, tennis and racketball I also swim, bike ride, hunt, fish, jog, collect cards and I even cut hair. I also used to be involved in the Recollections of the Guadalupe Church. I was a GSA member. I have worked in about four recollections.

During my junior year I still wasn't thinking about going to college. I really thought about going to the Marines, but when I got to my senior year a lightbulb lit inside my head and then I thought college would be more important than the Marines. I really had a lot of support from my family, especially from my parents. If it wasn't for my parents I don't think I would be this far in my education. When I was little, my parents would help me with my homework and always gave me positive support. Wait up, how could I forget my high school counselor, Mrs. Juarez. If it wasn't for her I don't think I would be attending CSU Fresno, because she helped me out a lot, in filling out applications, scholarships and financial aid. I really appreciate her for helping me out.

Right now I'm in University Migrant Services (UMS), College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) and Language Immersion Program (LIP). These programs have really helped me out. They've hepled me learn how to use the catalog and the library. They've helped me choose my classes and they showed me around campus.

When I graduate from CSU Fresno I will have a B.A. Degree in Criminology. I will then be attending Highway Patrol Academy, so I can become a California Highway Patrol. By being a Highway Patrol I plan to keep my community safe as it has kept me safe.

SUMERJIT SINGH

I am a sophomore at Fresno State, where people call me "Sumer". I have a Fresno address but, I live out in the country by Caruthers and Selma. The Singh family is from a village in India. My major is surgical nursing but, my goal is to become a surgeon after being a nurse. I am the second generation in my family to go to college.

In 1980 my family moved to Arizona from India trying to find a better way of life. When I lived in India I used to live with my dad's parents in a different village than my mom while my dad was fighting in the army in Iran. So, when my dad came back to India to live with my mom he took over my grandfather's farm. When my mom and dad decided to move to the United States, my dad went to get me from my grandfathers house. It was very difficult for me to leave and go with people I did not know. My mom's family was already in the United States so it was easier for the rest of my family to get started in the United States. As, for me I had to move in with people I did not know and then I had to move to a country I did not know either. In the beginning when I lived in Arizona I missed my grandparents very much because they had been my only family up to then. I had a very hard time with school because I had never gone to an English school while in India so I could not speak the language. (There are Indian spoken schools as well as England influenced schools in India). I was very afraid to talk to people. I did not know the language, but that never stopped me from getting into fights which started because the children could not understand why I was not talking to them. By working slowly I got used to my family, to the language and to the country. Two years after we had moved to the United States, my father died so my mom and I had to start working so our family could survive. From then on I started working in some of the weirdest places doing some of the weirdest jobs. I started working in gas stations, car body shops, as coach for sports, and other things considered "guys" work.

We moved to California during the Summer of 1988 because my mom's whole family had moved here. My family has always worked on farms. When we lived in India we worked on sugar cane farms and wheat farms which family members or friends owned. When we

came here we worked in watermelon, onion, and other fields that were owned by my grandfather or my granduncle.

There are five people in my family. My mom, sister, and two brothers. My sister, brother and I were the first in my family to go to school past elementary school. My parents never went to college because there is not much of an education for women in India and only rich men can afford it. My uncle's did go to college for a little bit when they came to the United States. The only people from my family going to college right now are my older sister and I, and my younger brother is starting this fall. With all of us going to college it has been hard trying to keep up with our native language, Punjabi. We speak Punjabi because the place we lived in while in India was Punjab.

I have been studying in the U.S. for twelve years. When I was going to elementary school, I thought about going to college, I was always told that girls did not need to go to school, especially college, because they did not need a career. "That is what guys are around for, " or so I was told. For that reason I never did believe that I would get to go to college. I also did not that think I would still be unmarried by the time I was eighteen because most girls are married by the time they are sixteen but before they are twenty years of age.

In high school, I decided I wanted to go to college so I started getting ready for it. I started taking college-prep classes that were required and I ended up in honors college-prep classes. While in high school, when I realized that I could make it in college, I decided that I wanted to finish my education and make sure I did not get into trouble with any guy so I would not have to get married. I had some institutional support from my teachers, school secretaries and office personnel that I worked with and some support from my counselor. They told me about all the different things I could do if I stayed in school. They told me I could make a great life for myself if I stuck with it. Most of my support came from my mom because she wanted all of us to get the best education we could. My mom believes in an education for everyone because she believes anyone who is willing to work for their education should get one. She wants everyone to be able to work where they to want so that they can be happy doing it for the rest of their lives instead of just living life as it comes. She does not want us to end up working in the fields for the rest of our

lives like she has. That was why she told us to stay clear of guys because they only cause trouble. Then we would be able to finish our educations the best we knew how.

I didn't have as much information about college as I would have liked to have early on in my high school career. I was able to get a hold of a lot of information when it was late in the year. I did not find out about different colleges and their programs until it was too late, in April or May, because a lot of information was available for the students at that time.

On campus, I am only affiliated with I.S.A. (Indian Sikh Association). This organization is composed of students from Fresno State that are from the Sikh religion and are supporting the fight for our religion in India, but who also wish it was finally over. The war going on in India for the last twenty-five years is religious. It is the Sikhs against the Hindus and they have been fighting very fiercely for the last ten years. This war started because one religion is trying to rule the other and that always causes problems and sometimes war.

I am trying to get into SCOP (Science Career Opportunity Program). This program will help me with my career in nursing. The program is for anyone who has any kind of major that is related to science careers. The only community affiliation I have been involved in was when I read books onto tapes for children and adults who can not read English , those who can not read at all and those with reading disabilities. I have also done a few things with my church. I helped with church clean-ups, teaching classes and helping families cook when they were putting together the church for those three days. (Our church is held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when it is done).

My favorite kind of extracurricular activities are playing sports. I love to play basketball, softball or baseball, and any other kind of sport. I also love to read books. My favorite kinds of books are Westerns and mysteries. These things are also extracurricular to me: I am a volunteer at St. Agnes Hospital . I work in the emergency room helping nurses and doctors with many different things that need to be done. Such as: helping clean-up wounds, stitching cuts, getting medications and records, and doing other things to help out. My volunteer work at the hospital helps me get more familiar with my future career. I also work with conversational partners. We work with students who want to

become better English speakers and who want to enter the university. This is helping me learn to deal with other people from different nationalities that I will have to deal with even more later on. My university experience has been very good because I have learned a lot about life and people. Going to college has also helped me figure out my future career and my future responsibilities. It helped me decide that I wanted to become a surgical nurse and that if I like it I will go for my Phd. and become a surgeon. After I am a surgical nurse I want to get a masters of science in nursing. I want to eventually become a surgeon after I have been a surgical nurse for a few years. I want to help people that will be growing up like I did, as a migrant with only one parent who can only find a job in the fields. I want to help those that need it but have no possible way of getting the help they need.

11 August 1992

My name is Lupe Valdez. I am a second year sophomore at California State University- Fresno. My home town is Selma, California. My parents are from Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico. I am planning to major is Social Work and to minor in Spanish here at the university. In the future I see myself with a Ph.D. in Social Work and having my own practice. I am first generation to graduate from high school and to attend college. I am also looking forward of being first generation to graduate from college

I was born on the 14 of January in the year 1973 as Guadalupe Valdez to Conrado and Guadalupe Valdez at Valley Medical Center here in Fresno. Due to some unfortunate economic problems my family faced, I was raised in Fresno by my godparents, Encarnacion and Gregoria Miranda. They became my guardians, as well as my parents. I even, for a few years, believed that they were my natural parents. To this day I still call them Mom and Dad.

Finally, at the age of 5, I moved to Selma. To the home where my natural parents and 8 brothers and sisters lived. Selma became the home town of my family and I.

My parents attended school in Matamoros. My mother had to drop out of school in the second grade because her parents could not afford to send her anymore. She then began to work full time to help her family financially. My

father also had this unfortunate fate happen to him. He dropped out in the fifth grade.

Moving along the time line, in their early twenties my parents moved from the southeast to California in search of a better life. They, just like many other Mexicans who lived in the San Joaquin Valley, worked in the agricultural fields. It was here in the States that my mom gave birth to nine children, 5 girls and 4 boys.

To make a long story short, my four older siblings, named in order, Gilbert, Lorena, Telbina, and Junior had no interest in school. They attend Heartland Continuation High School. Not only did they find themselves dropping out of school but they found themselves in juvenile hall or foster homes. They eventually dropped out of school completely because of teenage pregnancy or they were in this stage where all they wanted to do was "hang out" and look for trouble. They all seemed to have entered into this rebellious stage around the same time.

Today, Gilbert, Lorena, and Telbina, are trying to better themselves. They have completed their G.E.D. and have put their past behind them. As for, Junior, as I write this, he is doing time. What I mean by time is time in the big house, in a penitentiary. On the other hand I have a sister (who is 6th in line) named, Emilea. She just graduated from Kings River Community Collage. I am very proud to report that. I follow right behind her as child #6.

The 3 younger ones Daniel, Isabel, and Edward, are hanging in there. Daniel and Isabel are in the same continuation high school that my older brothers and sisters attended. Edward just graduated from Jr. high. We all hope that they will succeed. They are having a few problems but we will have to wait and see what fate brings.

Spanish is the native language of my family. My parents do not know how to speak English. My mom takes English classes. She loves to learn and she is doing very well. My father, on the other hand, is to stubborn to learn English. He feels that is doing just fine being monolingual.

I have been in school here in Fresno county for 16 going on 17 years. I started headstart at the age of 31/2.

Elementary school was an exciting experience because it was in the first grade where I really began to learn Spanish. The house I spent the first five years of my life at was bilingual; but they figured that if they taught me more English it would make things easier for me in school. It did. It also made things harder for me at home. Coming from parents who spoke only Spanish, it was hard for me to communicate with them. My older brothers and sisters who had become bilingual would translate. But they often made fun of me. So little by little I began to learn Spanish.

As an elementary school student I was involved with student council and I was on the school newspaper. Then in the sixth grade I became editor of it. I was becoming more of a leader than a follower. Having these experiences

I found myself involved in school government. In all my four high school years I was elected to a class office from class senator to class president.

As a freshmen I was enrolled in regular classes. A counselor is responsible for this. She came to my Jr. High to help us pick our classes. She said, " These classes are very hard. You should go with just regular classes", when I asked her about the college preparatory program. So I took her advice and we placed me into regular classes. My counselor, Mrs. Grijales, reviewed my record and suggested that I take C.P. So the remaining 3 years of high school I was a C.P. student. I did very well.

During high school, I was not a part of my community like I wanted to be. My parents did not like for me to do things outside of school. But one yearly school activity involved many of the class officers, as well as other students. We would go door-to-door and collected canned food for the Good Samaritan Mission in Selma during the holidays.

I was a member of the color guard team. I also belonged to MAYO (Mexican-American Youth Organization) , SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), and FNL (Friday NIght Live). I also was elected to class offices all four years (as I mentioned earlier).

My senior year a FSU representative came to visit my high school every week. She encouraged me to attend FSU and told me about EOP and UMS. She also mentioned

Summer Bridge and how much it would help me to be FSU oriented.

The people in my family who encourage me are my older sisters and my mother. My father is partially responsible for my determination to succeed because he expects the rest of us to follow the same foot steps as my older siblings. EOP also gave me support.

Being an EOP student, I was able to participate in the Summer Bridge Program. This was a great experience. I met so many people. I had never once set foot on the FSU campus and this program gave me knowledge of the campus.

My mom wanted me to concentrate on school so we decided that I should wait till this year to join any clubs. This year I plan to join a sorority, as well as MEChA (Mexicano Estudantil Chicanos de Aztlan), and I know that both of these organizations help the community.

I am also looking forward to becoming a role model for my community in the future. I plan to help my Raza, but at the moment I just don't know how. One thing I am not intending to do is turn my back on my community. I feel that too many Chicanos/ Mexicanos forget their roots and become selfish. Our Raza needs us. I am optimistic that we will overcome these barriers and succeed; as an individual and as one.

Mónica Yépez

Family members, friends, relationships and even pets come and go through life, but your education will stay with you till the end. I have struggled and suffered, but I am proud to say that I am still here and not ready to quit. These are two sayings that I have really believed in for the past few months. It probably sounds silly because they are just recent, but in order to understand me you must know a little more about my past.

I was born in Fresno, California on August 13, 1970. My family consists of my mother Jessie, my father Carlos, my older brother Carmichael, my younger sister Mariana and two new members who have joined in the past year which are my sister-in-law Cynthia and my niece Mané. We are a small, but recently united family.

The reason I say "recently united" is because since I can make memory, as a family, we've never been in the same country, much less in the same city, at the same time. There have been a few times but they haven't lasted long. My father would always be here in the United States working to support us, while we were in Mexico. He has worked in restaurants, hotels and in bakeries, even though he holds a teacher's degree. The problem with my father's degree is that it only allows him to teach in México and in that country it's not worth enough to feed a family. My mother is a high school graduate and is presently attending cosmetology school. My brother is also attending Fresno State and is studying interior design. I myself am an International Business major.

I started kindergarten in Coalinga. From there my family decided to move to México where I completed first grade. We then moved to Fresno where I started second grade. For about 9 years I was enrolled in and out of schools in both countries. Some times living with my mother, other times with my father and some times with both. At other times even with relatives not being immediate family members.

Before I turned 15 years of age my father granted me a wish. Two weeks before my birthday I wrote to him, since he was in the U.S. and I was in México, and told him that for my wish I wanted to study in California. By this time my brother had left the house, so this meant that my mother and sister would be the only ones left at home. After several phone calls my father finally agreed to bring

me, but it was just to honor his word because he disagreed completely with the idea. The reason he opposed to me studying in California was because I didn't want to study in the country where he was born and raised in, which was Mexico. He made arrangements with my grandmother, who lived in Fresno, so I could stay with her. Before he took me to her house he made my education a challenge because he said, "You are never going to become anything in this country, but I brought you here because you wanted to come". Regardless of the way he thought he took me to grandma's house.

From the first day I spent with my grandmother she made it very clear to me that I was there to study and nothing else. I lived with her throughout my four years of high school. Living with her was not that bad. She provided the necessities for me such as food and shelter. I was not given the opportunity to grow at a normal pace, instead, I felt pushed to become an adult in many ways. I could not go out with my friends from school, I could not talk on the phone more than 15 minutes, I could not have a boyfriend and if I wanted any nice clothes I had to find a way to get them on my own. All the time I was with my grandmother I only received money from my father for two years, the other two I took care of myself in any way I could. Examples of jobs that I had ranged from janitorial work to being a supervisor for the copy center at school or being an ESL tutor.

As soon as I graduated from Washington Union High School, in 1989I, went on to Summer Bridge here at Fresno State which I consider a good experience. A month after Summer Bridge I started my first year in college. This first year I lived with four wonderful roommates which I considered my family since I didn't have my real one at hand. After the first year I fell in love with a person that I had known for 5 years. We had already been dating for a year but I was not very serious about him. By the beginning of my second year he asked me to marry him and I accepted, but since most of my family disagreed with the idea we decided to live together until I graduated and then think about marriage. By this point most of my family members had disowned me including my mother. It had taken me two years to get used to the idea of living without my parents and now I had to get used to it again, but this time it was because of what I felt for someone, which was sincere and pure.

For my third year in college I felt like I had gone through 10 years. Many personal things happened that would take me too long

to explain. The mistakes and wrong decisions I made that year cost me a years worth of college time that went down the drain. I no longer live with that person, but instead my mother and sister are at my side.

Today I have my mother and sister living with me. My brother visits us as often as he can. I am now restarting my third year in college and with high hopes of giving it my 100%. At my age I can say that I have lived 10 years more than what I've really lived. I have supported myself financially since I graduated from high school with a help of EOP & UMS and other financial aid. Considering that I had very little information about college in high school, I think that I've done OK. I consider myself to be a person who believes that anything is possible if one has enough dedication, but I'm also realistic in knowing that being a minority in this country means that I must work twice as hard as the student next to me. With this in mind, my goals are to be the best I can be in the field of Business. In serving my community
I plan to work with a company that will have part ownership in México.

I have now given you a brief and general story of my life. All I can say about myself is that in my journey through life with all it's ups and downs I have become what I am today and no regrets about it.

ROSA ZUNIGA

My name is Rosa Angelica Zuniga . I will be a freshman in the fall of 1992 in CSUF University . My hometown is Burrel . I graduated from Caruthers High School . I attended Caruthers High for four years. My family is from Mexico , but all my brothers and sisters and I were raised here in California . First we lived in Raisin City , but recently we moved to Burrel. Even though we were raised here in the U.S. my family still has all of the Mexican traditions.

When I attend CSUF I want to major in Business Administration , I don't really have a minor right now ,but I am thinking of minoring in Spanish . My professional goal is to have my own business in the future . The first goal I want to achieve after I graduate from college is to work as a hotel or restaurant administrator. Then after I earn enough money I want to start my own business. I will be the first generation to go to college. I am happy that I am the first one to go to college because then I can show my younger brothers and sisters that if they want to they can get a higher education also . That way they can get ahead in life with a career.

My family and I came to the U. S. in 1978 , I was four years old. I have seven brothers and sisters and my parents . Both of my parents went to elementary school in Mexico . All of my older brothers and sisters only went as far as high school . I began kindergarten in Raisin City Elementary I went to Raisin City until I was In first grade
then we moved to Easton where I attended American Union Elementary. We lived in Easton for about two years and then moved back to Raisin City, where I began third grade .I graduated from Raisin City Elementary in 1988 and Caruthers High School in 1992. Now I am about to attend Fresno State. I don't have any brothers and sisters in college at this time but, now that they saw that I am attending college they will also want to go in the future. I do have cousins who I look up to , that are going to the University of California in Santa Cruz ,and in Los Angeles .

I have been studying in the U.S. for twelve long years , from kindergarten through high school. My elementary school experience was good , because I really liked the the way my teachers treated me. In high school I took all of the

college prep classes I needed because, since back then I was already planning to go to college . My high school experience was very good .It prepared me to go to college . In high school I met a lot of new people , who helped me through those years when I had problems . Also in high school most of the teacher really helped me out with the classes that I had trouble in . Overall I think that high school was easy , because I didn't have to worry about anything , and the school work was very easy .

When I was accepted to CSUF University , I was accepted through E. O. P. which is Equal Opportunities Program. I obtained financial aid from the Cal Grants and Pel Grants , scholarships , and a loan to pay for all of my school expenses. My family has supported me all the way . When I told them that I wanted to go to college they were happy for me.
It helped me out a lot to have their support . Without their help I don't think I would be here right now. Also all of my brothers and sisters have backed me up a lot , they encourage me to continue my education . So I am very glad that all of my family has stood by me with the decisions I have made.

The college information I had before I came to CSUF wasn't very much . I wasn't even planning to apply to Fresno State until my Migrant counselor told me I should apply , and he gave me the application to be admitted to CSUF. He also gave me the financial aid application and I was accepted. After turning them in I was accepted to CSUF.

I really haven't had that much college experience, but since I have been in the Language Immersion Program for six weeks it has really helped me out a lot. I learned were most of the buildings and classes are, I learned how to use the computers , and L met a lot of new friends . I think that being in L . I . P . has been a really good experience for me. It not only gave me job experience, but also a lot more information about the university .

I am very thankful to my couselor for helping me with my applications , and to my parents for all of their support . I am also very glad that I was given financial aid . If it wasn't for financial aid I wouldn't be here right now, because my parents would not have been able to afford sending me to college . Now that I am here I will do my best to make it through college and graduate with a B. A. in Business Administration .

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I want to help my community by making new businesses , that way more jobs will be created . Especially now that everyone is affected by the deficit. I would like to help the Community any way I can.

Gloria Samaniego

LIP Supervisor

Even though I was born in a small town in Zacatecas, Mexico, I only lived there the first year and a half of my life. After that my parents decided to move to the United States where they, as many others do, search for a better future.

When we came to the United States, we came to live in the Los Angeles area, Long Beach to be more specific. It was there that I commenced my education in pre-school at the age of three. During my elementary years, I was somewhat privileged because I was able to attend some of the better schools in the area, even though I had to travel an hour to and from school every day. I started my junior high in the sixth grade. I was elected to go to Newcomb Junior High School which would prepare me for high school which would prepare me for the university. At this school we took seven classes everyday. The classes and the instructors were more strict and demanding than regular elementary schools. Even though I would have liked to have completed my junior high years at Newcomb, it wasn't possible because soon thereafter my father decided it was better for the family to move.

My father had decided that growing up and raising a family in Los Angeles was very tough so in 1982 he decided to move our family to Madera, CA. It was a very hard adjustment for the whole family, moving from the city to a small community but we learned to adapt and to like Madera more than Los Angeles.

Today my family is comprised of nine family members: my parents, five sisters and one brother. My oldest sister has

graduated from UCLA and will be going back for her Masters Degree. I will be graduating in the spring with a double major in Sociology and Chicano and Latin American Studies. My sister will be a junior at UCLA, and she will major in Political Science. My next sister will start attending Stanford in the fall as a Pre-Med student, and another sister will be a junior in high school. My young brother is in elementary school and finally I have a younger sister at home.

I think I have been very lucky in that my parents have always emphasized and encouraged higher education in our family. Even though they have not been able to help us economically for obvious reasons, they have instilled in each one of us a desire to further our education. They have also been motivators in that they motivate and give us strength to continue with our education when we feel we are ready to give up. If it hadn't been for our parents, and for their support and understanding, I doubt very seriously I would be where I'm at right now.

My parents have been a very big part of my educational career. Then of course there are people at CSUF that have definitely had an impact in my life. University Migrant Services is the office that I have received most of my help from. If it weren't for the people that work there, people that go out of their way to help us, life on campus would have been that much harder and maybe even that much longer. I most definitely want to thank those people from UMS that have been with me since the start. They are truly appreciated for all their service, understanding, dedication, support, and not to mention for their patience; those special people know who I'm talking about. I thank God for making me part of a world full of people who care and for making me be one of them.

GUADALUPE VEGA R.
SUPERVISOR

Hello, my name is Guadalupe Vega. I was born in México City. I come from a family that has experienced the rigors of farm labor. I'm the oldest of five siblings and also the first of my family to attend the University; I feel proud of it because by getting an education I can help other people in my community and at the same time I am a role model for my younger siblings. I have the desire to become a Spanish teacher because I consider that the Spanish language is one of the great values of the Hispanic culture that we have. I feel the necessity to promote our language, especially in this country because many of our people are already loosing their identity and their culture.

I came with my family to this country eleven years ago, we, like the majority of migrant people, came to the country of opportunities looking for a better future. My parents encourage me to continue with my education, they want the best of life for me and my brothers. Unfortunately, they didn't have the opportunity to have an education because of financial problems. I believe education is the key of the future, an educator can contribute to this future by touching the life of a student.

I graduated from Madera High School in 1986. I attended Fresno City College; and recently graduated from California State University, Fresno and received my Bachelor Degree (B..A.) in Spanish. In the near future, I plan to ingress into Graduate School for my Masters in Spanish Literature. My ultimate goal for my education at the moment, is to obtain my Ph. D. in Spanish and serve my community, my people and my family with whatever I can.

I want to give special thanks to Raúl Moreno and the Office of University Migrant Services (UMS) for giving me the opportunity of being part of this wonderful program (LIP). Working as a supervisor was a great experience, I really enjoyed my job. As supervisor I was able to enhance my experience in communication and social skills. I really appreciate him for all the help he has given me.

¡Gracias señor Raúl Moreno, que Dios le Bendiga Siempre!

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Salvador M. Villalobos

L. I. P. Supervisor

I am a proud Mexican that used to work in the fields and I do not regret it. I was born in Guanajuato, Mexico, in a little 'ranchito' called El Joconoxtle.

My parents still work in the fields but I was lucky to get the opportunity of obtaining an education that can prepare me for the future. Thanks to the University Migrant Services I was admitted to CSUF. They realized that I was a potential candidate and that I could succeed at the University.

My family migrated to the United States in 1977, to see if we could make a better living. Unfortunately my father had the wrong idea about earning dollars; working in the fields, we had a hard time supporting the family. I guess this experience made me realize how important it was for me to get an education.

The history of my education begins like this. When we arrived to California, I was placed in the third grade. This grade was very difficult because I did not have the potential to communicate in English. In 1983, my English improved and I graduated from Planada Elementary School. In 1987, I was one of 53 graduates from Le Grand High School. Immediately after high school I attended CSUF, and I plan to graduate with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Real Estate & Urban Land Economics.

Working in the Language Immersion Program was the best job that I've ever had and I truly believe that it will be very difficult to find another position as a supervisor like this. The best assets that the Language Immersion Program has are the students. Every one is very involved in helping the Spanish-speaking community. I also feel that all the students received a fair share of a learning experience in the Language Immersion Program.

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

The LIP program has provided me with new and great experiences. I will use these tools to help others who need important information about the university. LIP has opened new and exciting doors by giving me the chance to practice my natural talents. This experience will prove useful in my line of work which is helping the community.

LIP has provided the community with valuable information and the four groups' efforts have paid off. Visiting radio stations, labor camps, T.V. stations, and schools was the best way to transmit much needed information. I personally want to thank the teachers and broad-casters because they gave their valuable time to do our presentations. I also want to thank all the LIP participants for doing a great job, and I hope this program will continue.

Jose Antonio Ramirez

I would like to thank all those people who made possible the Language Immersion Program. This program has been a very good experience for everyone, especially for the incoming freshmen. Through this program we were given the opportunity to meet a lot of new people. We worked very hard, but at the same time we learned a lot. We learned how to work in teams. We all developed new skills such as doing presentations for students from all ages. I feel that we really made a difference in our community. It really feels good to know that you have helped your community. I am very satisfied with the work we have done. Many thanks to Fresno Private Industry Council and to Raul Moreno. I hope the program will continue next year.

Patricia Lopez

I just wanted to share that this program has helped me out a lot. I learned about CSUF and the programs offered here. Also, it is good because we are getting paid to be here, at the same time we are working for our community. We helped our community by giving presentations and campus tours to elementary students, and gave them information about college. Also we motivated them to get a higher education.

Rosa Zuniga

First of all the Language Immersion Program has been every experience that a student can get. It gave me courage, self-esteem self-confidence, and other helpful experiences. I'd love to get another opportunity to be in the program, because it not only benefits the students, but the community itself.

Alex Garcia Garcia II

I feel that I was given a great opportunity to meet others as well as do something constructive for my community. I think that it was also a learning experience for many of the incoming Freshman. I hope that this program continues in the years to come. Programs such as this one are necessary in our community. I can easily say that this program allowed me to learn about my community as well as myself.

Christina Salcedo

Language Immersion Program has helped me a lot. It has given me knowledge and information about the university. It gave me an opportunity to meet and work with new people and do different kinds of things. I've enjoyed it and I hope it continues.

I feel that LIP has helped our community. We have given out the information that we learned ourselves. We helped and encouraged them to pursue their goals and reach for a better future, and best of all we let them know que "Si se puede".

Patty Munguia

The Language Immersion Program has been a very good experience, I would like to thank FPIC for helping out, and supporting the program with everything, and also to Mr. Moreno, and our three supervisors that were gentle with us.

I feel that this program has been the best experience I have ever had. I learned most of all the campus, and how to communicate with others.

The Language Immersion Program should continue for next year, because it's great for our community, especially when we are helping out.

Thank you for everything and hope this program gets better and better with the years.

Sonia Flores

The program helped a lot. I learned where everything in the university was located. I met different people in different grades and they all helped us in different ways. I really appreciated the understanding that the supervisors had. At times they got a little tough on us, but it was for our own good. I have no bad comments only good ones. I believe that this program is a good experience for everybody, especially for the incoming freshman.

I feel that we helped our community a lot because in all the presentations that we did everybody was thankful and they appreciated the presentations very much.

Veronica Aranda

This program has been helpful in that it has provided me with a lot of information about CSUF. Even though I am a sophomore, there are many things I hadn't learned about CSUF, such as UMS.

Also, I feel this program has really helped me feel like I am contributing to my community just like it has contributed to me. Of course, it hasn't been just that, it has also helped me out economically for the summer which I have really appreciated.

Living with everyone has been an experience! I mean fun!

Bonifacio Sanchez

LIP helped me learn a little about CSUF and I really appreciate it. I think that LIP should go on every year because it's a program that provides good information to students and parents.

Feliciano Mata

Thanks to the Language Immersion Program I got to learn about the University. I'm going to be a freshman and I got a chance to experience college life. With this program I also got a chance to motivate other students to come to college. I know not all students got motivated but even if one student did get motivated then it is worth very much. I was happy to get a chance to talk to students and give them information we never got.

Sandra Perez

In The Language Immersion Program I feel that I have had a lot of experience. This program was very beneficial for everyone especially for us as incoming freshman. I want to say thank you to the Fresno Private Industry Council and to Raul Moreno for making this program possible. This program is a very good program I truly hope that it keeps on going. I feel that we have made some changes in the community especially the students that we talked to. When we would go and talk to the elementary students, they seemed really interested. They would ask many questions about college and about us too. Thank you for everything this was a wonderful experience.

Nora Aguirre

In this program I really learned a lot. I learned not to be scared to talk in front of a camera. I know how to use the library. I conquered my fear of talking in front of people. In other words I'm learning how to speak better in front of large crowds of people. I now know where most of the buildings are located at Fresno State. I know what clubs are available for me. I learned how to use the catalog and phone skills. Finally, I found a lot of friends.

Gilbert Sanchez

The experience I have obtained from the Language Immersion Program will help me in the future. I have enjoyed my work because I have been able to go out to communities and speak to them about pursuing a higher education. I had been meaning to volunteer my services to my community but never had the chance. I thank the program for giving me the opportunity to obtain the experience of working with communities or individuals for their benefit or for the community.

Fidel Amezquita

The Language Immersion Program has helped me to work and get along with others. Our program consists of giving tours and presentations. This has really helped me with knowing more about the campus and getting information about the University. The Language Immersion Program is a great benefit to the community because we are motivating students to continue their education. This makes me feel good because they are getting information that I didn't get while I was young.

Lupe Ochoa

During the Language Immersion Program I have had the opportunity of meeting people from college and incoming freshman students too. Also, during this program I have had the chance of getting to know the campus and the computers most of all. I have enjoyed this program a lot. I believe that the LIP students have helped the community by informing students, going to labor camps, and to groups to talk about college. We have given information that will really benefit them in getting to know more about education and campus life.

Norma Olguin

This program was a very good experience for me because it made me grow as a person. It further enhanced my skills. I got the opportunity to work doing something I really enjoyed. I loved working with my community and helping them out. LIP will always be cherished in my life. I hope that this program continues on for many years.

Norma Perez Zuniga

This program should have been started years ago! It not only educated our community but also us. The experience has made me become more mature. I know we as a group encouraged many students by sharing personal situations with them and they opened their eyes, and realized they were not alone. I hope to see this program continue in the future and I hope to be a part of it again!

Lupe Valdez

I would like to say I am very thankful to be in The Language Immersion Program. Thank you, Raul Moreno, Raul Diaz, Sal, Gloria and Lupe. It has been a great experience and a lot of fun. I have learned so many things that will help me as I enter college. I wished everyone could have the opportunity we had because you get to meet new people and learn about the campus. I hope this program continues for many years to come. It can truly benefit incoming students that are migrant and are of low income.

Cecilia Rubalcava

Overall, the LIP Program was a good one. It was a good experience for all who participated. The incoming freshman seem to have learned a lot from it and to have made friends in it. I know that none of them will feel lost coming in to the university in the fall.

I believe that we did a lot of good for every school we visited. We learned some skills that we did not have before.

Ana Cruz

This program is very good in the way it is trying to keep students in school. This program is needed to help the students become better aware of what is out there for them after high school and know what different ways thet can get in.

Sumerjit Singh

Language Immersion Program (LIP) has helped me to grow in ways such as working with other students as a team. I also learned to do presentations to the open public, and at Fresno County Schools. The most important thing it taught me is to be responsible in your own work which is organizing agendas and presentations which helped me develop my ideas and share them with my partners.

I believe that I contributed to the community by providing presentations to parents, children and students. As we did our work, there were a lot of people who seemed interested in our work and they had a lot of questions which made us feel that we were doing a good job. What would make us feel better is to see all the students who were at our presentation, enrolled in college, in the future.

This program has been a very good experience for all of us who have worked in it, especially for the ones that are going to be in incoming freshman and also for the continuing students because they get to know more people and more things about the university that they didn't previously know.

What I liked a lot was that we helped our community know more about education. I want to thank everyone in this program for giving me the opportunity to be in this program.

Laura Guadian

My stay here at the LIP program has been a growing experience for me. It has given me the opportunity to work with a varying group of people. The LIP program has enabled me to help others in many ways that I wish I would have been helped. Serving my community has filled me with a sense of worth. I feel that I have helped to the best of my ability, but more so it was an unforgettable experience. Thanks to all those whom I worked with.

Evangelina Martinez

First of all I would like to thank Raul Moreno for giving me the opportunity to be in the LIP program. Also thanking Guadalupe Vega, Gloria Samaniego and Salvador Villalobos for all their patience "y aguante". I entered this program with money as a priority, but now I leave it with a great satisfaction of having the chance of knowing more on how to help the community. All I can say is, "What a great summer experience."

Monica Yepez